United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1188
22 July 1992

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ United Nations inspection team removed from the vicinity of Iraqi Ministry of Agriculture following new incident today; Chairman of the Special Commission to consider various means to monitor building; United States Permanent Representative warns of "serious consequences".

+ In a report, Secretary-General tells Security Council that conditions do not exist for United Nations to supervise heavy weapons of parties to conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

+ Secretary-General expresses regret at murder of staff member of International Civil Aviation Organization in Niarobi, Avi Rappaport.

+ Panel of Technical Experts on Register of Conventional Arms concludes debate on Register of data on destabilizing offensive weapons and international arms transfers.

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The inspection team of the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) on Iraqi Disarmament monitoring the Ministry of Agriculture in Baghdad was removed early today from the vicinity of the building. Removal was predicated upon the Chief Inspector's view of the threat of violence against the team and the totally inadequate Iraqi Government security protection. The Chief Inspector informed the Executive Chairman of the Special Commission of his decision.

A press release issued at Headquarters today also reported the latest incident in Baghdad, where an unknown assailant tried to stab an UNSCOM inspector early this morning. The assailant was subsequently apprehended and released by the Iraqi security forces. According to the communiqué, the incident had led to the conclusion that the Iraqi side "had no intention of preventing incidents of physical violence against the inspectors outside the building".

The text also pointed out the failure of the Government of Iraq to ensure the safety and security of UNSCOM inspectors. This amounted to a violation by

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Iraq of Security Council resolution 687 - the so-called ceasefire resolution adopted after the Persian Gulf last year.

At a press conference at Headquarters today, Rolf Ekeus, Chairman of the Special Commission on Iraqi Disarmament, told correspondents that despite the attacks perpetrated against the United Nations inspectors and their subsequent removal for security reasons, the Special Commission had not given up its efforts and would continue to consider various means to monitor the building under the current conditions imposed by Iraq. Mr. Ekeus also reported that he had informed the President of the Security Council of the new developments.

Reacting to the incident, Ambassador Edward Perkins of the United States, expressed tonight in a press release his outrage "by the Iraqi behaviour". "The Security Council has made clear that Iraq's continued refusal to allow access is a material and unacceptable breach of the ceasefire resolution", he said, before concluding that Iraq's failure to comply with United Nations resolutions "will result in serious consequences".

The inspectors of the Special Commission on Iraqi Disarmament had been monitoring the building of the Ministry of Agriculture in Baghdad since 5 July, following the refusal by the Iraqi's authorities to allow them to visit the premises. The members of the Commission contend that documents relating to Iraq's prohibited military programme were stored on the premises, while the Iraqi side claim that such a search would violate their country's sovereignty.

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"After carefully considering the London Agreement and the circumstances in which it was concluded...I have come to the conclusion that the conditions do not exist for me to recommend that the Security Council accept the request of the three parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina that the United Nations supervise the heavy weapons that the parties have agreed to place under international supervision," Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has told the Security Council, in a report dated 21 July on the situation in that Republic.

"In the first place," the Secretary-General writes, "the request contained in the London Agreement raises the question of the relationship between the United Nations and regional organizations in the maintenance of international peace and security." Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, he points out, underlines the primary responsibility of the Security Council in such matters providing, for instance, that in certain circumstances it can "utilize" regional organizations or agencies. There is no provision for the reverse to occur, he says. "In other instances when the United Nations and a regional organization have both been involved in an international peace and security situation, care has been taken to ensure that the primacy of the world Organization has not been compromised", added the Secretary-General.

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"Secondly, the United Nations did not participate in the negotiation of the London Agreement," Mr. Boutros-Ghali writes, and it is "most unusual for the United Nations to be asked to help implement a politico-military agreement in whose negotiation it has played no part".

His concern is heightened, he says, by the lack of clarity on the respective roles of the United Nations and the European Community with respect to strengthening the ceasefire in the longer term. He has asked Lord Carrington to provide him with the records of the London negotiations.

Thirdly, continues the Secretary-General, certain conditions - including the consent and cooperation of the parties and a practicable mandate - have to exist before a successful peace-keeping operation can be established. Neither exists in the present case.

Fourthly, the additional function which the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) is asked to assume is "simply beyond the present operational and logistical capacity of the United Nations", he stresses. With UNPROFOR already stretched to breaking-point, with severe shortages of civilian personnel and of almost all categories of equipment, it would take at least three months to deploy what is required to implement the Force Commander's concept for the weapons supervision. For those reasons, Mr. Boutros-Ghali points out earlier, the parties would have to maintain their commitment to the ceasefire without international help for some time.

Finally, he says, there is the question of priorities. "The United Nations is already massively engaged in the former Yugoslavia. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is leading the international effort to deal with the largest humanitarian crisis which has afflicted Europe since the Second World War, with some 2.25 million refugees and displaced persons....On the peace-keeping side, some 13,600 troops are deployed in Croatia, the third largest force ever fielded by the Organization." His concern, says the Secretary-General, "is that if the Security Council continues to concentrate its attention and resources to such an extent on the Yugoslav problem, this will be at the expense of the Organization's ability to help resolve equally cruel and dangereous conflicts elsewhere, for example in Somalia."

In conclusion, the Secretary-General indicates that he will shortly be recommending to the Security Council a further enlargement of UNPROFOR's mandate and strength in the United Nations Protected Areas. "I am not decrying the European Community's achievement in negotiating the London Agreement. Nor am I suggesting any reduction in the existing activities of the United Nations in the former Yugoslavia. Nor, of course, am I questioning the Security Council's right to decide what the response of the United Nations to the London Agreement should be", Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali concludes.

The Secretary-General's report is in response to a request made by the Security Council on 17 July, which had asked him to report to it on the implementation and resource implications of its decision in principal to respond positively to the request that the United Nations make arrangements

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for the supervision by UNPROFOR of all heavy weapons. The request had been made following the agreement reached by the parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina that day in London. The agreement also called for a 14-day ceasefire, during which all parties were to explore measures for strengthening the ceasefire in the longer term and agreed that all refugees would be permitted to return to the places from which they had been expelled.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has expressed his deep regret at the murder of Avi Rappaport, an staff member of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in Niarobi, who was gunned down by unidentified assailants during a robbery attempt on 19 July. He died the following day.

Mr. Rappaport, who was 51, had been working for ICAO since 1990. The Secretary-General conveyed his heartfelt condolences and those of all his colleagues to Mrs. Rappaport and the Government of Israel.

The United Nations has contact the Government of Kenya regarding the incident.

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The Panel of Technical Experts on the Register of Conventional Arms has concluded its deliberations and adopted a consensus report. The Register, as a first step, provides for the reporting of data on seven categories of offensive weapons considered to be most destabilizing for international security. It also provides background information on legislation covering arms transfers between different countries.

The Register, by introducing openness and transparency into the field of arms transfers, is intended to help create an atmosphere conducive to actual measures of disarmament and to serve as an instrument for preventive diplomacy. The Office for Disarmament Affairs is establishing a computerized data base for processing information submitted by Governments for inclusion in the Register.

At a second stage, the Register is to be expanded to include data on military holdings and procurement through national production. That issue will be handled by another group of experts to be convened in 1994.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

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23 July 1992

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General's Special Representative for South Africa holds talks in Pretoria with political leaders.

+ United Nations military observers arrive in Somalia for deployment along demarcation line dividing Mogadishu.

+ British Foreign Secretary, after meeting with Secretary-General, says key to peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina is supervision of heavy weapons; acknowledges further planning and cooperation are needed.

+ Draft resolution in Social Committee of Economic and Social Council would ask Secretary-General to convene World Summit on social development in 1995.

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On the second day of his mission to South Africa, Cyrus Vance, Special Representative of the Secretary-General to that country, met today with Chief Buthelezi, leader of the Inkatha Party, as well as with the Head of the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC), Clarence Makwetu. Later in the day, Mr. Vance held a first round of talks with representatives of the African National Congress (ANC).

Upon his arrival yesterday in the capital city of Pretoria, the Special Representative and his party met with President de Klerk and with senior Cabinet Ministers and high officials of the South African Government, including Foreign Minister Botha, Minister for State Affairs Dr. Viljoen, Minister for Constitutional Development Meyer, Minister for Law and Order Kriel, and Minister of Justice Coetsee.

Following that meeting, Mr. Vance held separate talks with the Ministers dealing with law and order, with constitutional questions, with social welfare issues, and with the Minister of Finance Keys.

Mr. Vance was appointed Special Representative for South Africa on 17 July, following the adoption last week by the Security Council of a resolution

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inviting the Secretary-General to appoint, as a matter of urgency, a Special Representative to recommend measures which would assist in bringing an effective end to the violence in South Africa, and in creating conditions for negotiations leading towards a peaceful transition to a democratic, non-racial and united South Africa.

In a press conference following the two-day meeting of the Council, South Africa's Foreign Minister Roelof (Pik) Botha had indicated that his Government would welcome the Special Representative's visit.

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United Nations military observers assigned to monitor the ceasefire in the capital of Somalia, Mogadishu, were due to arrive in the city today, in compliance with Security Council resolution 751 (1992). They were accompanied from Nairobi by the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia, Ambassador Mohammed Sahnoun.

The Spokesman of the Secretary-General told correspondents today that the deployment of the observers along the demarcation line separating Mogadishu into two zones was due to begin in the next few days.

The Secretary-General, on 29 June, had informed the Security Council that the main factions in the Somali conflict had agreed to the deployment of a unit of 50 United Nations observers to monitor the ceasefire in that country.

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British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, after meeting with the Secretary-General at Headquarters last night, told reporters that the key to a successful peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina was the identifying and monitoring of heavy weapons after a ceasefire had been established. "That is why it figured so prominently in the negotiations and the request by the three Bosnian signatories to the Security Council", he said.

His comments, and his meeting with the Secretary-General, followed the issuing yesterday morning of a report by Mr. Boutros-Ghali to the Security Council on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In that report the Secretary-General concluded that conditions did not exist for the acceptance by the Council of a request by the three Bosnian parties for United Nations supervision of their weapons. The request for United Nations involvement was contained in a July 17 ceasefire agreement negotiated with the parties by the European Community in London.

Mr. Hurd acknowledged that there was a need for further planning and cooperation, explaining that "the Secretary-General needs assurances of support - not just verbal support, but assurance of the necessary resources". He said that the Secretary-General's position was not that the monitoring could not be done; his concern was about the "balance of efforts required of the UN in different parts of the world".

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A draft resolution introduced this morning by the representative of Chile in the Social Committee of the Economic and Social Council, would ask the Secretary-General to convene a World Summit on social development in 1995. Such an event, it was stated, would eliminate the widespread perception of social issues as "soft items" on the international agenda and would provide the political impetus for a worldwide effort in favour of social development.

The draft was one of the three proposals on social issues introduced today. The other two texts dealt with the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons and the 1993 report on the world social situation. The texts were introduced by the representatives of the Philippines and Pakistan, respectively.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1190
24 July 1992

F R I D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

+ Secretary-General, in report to Security Council, recommends that United Nations role in Somalia be enlarged to help bring about an effective cease-fire and national reconciliation; proposes sending a technical team to examine situation.

+ Special Representative to Cambodia says serious cease-fire violations are continuing, particularly in areas controlled by the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea.

+ Chairman of the Special Commission on Iraqi Disarmament says talks are continuing with Permanent Representative of Iraq on "modalities" for inspections of Agriculture Ministry building in Baghdad; Iraqi spokesman calls on Security Council to accept proposal for neutral inspection team.

+ Social Committee of Economic and Social Council recommends that proclamation of International Day of Cooperatives be observed on first Saturday in July 1995.

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Somalia is today a divided country, and the quantity of arms in the hands of individuals, factions and groups is enormous. The complexity of the situation and the inherent dangers of working in Somalia, combined with the almost total absence of central, regional and local government, pose enormous operational difficulties for the United Nations in establishing a large-scale and effective presence, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

His assessment of the Somali situation is contained in a report to the Security Council dated 22 July, in which he suggests that the United Nations adapt its involvement in Somalia. "Its efforts need to be enlarged so that it can help bring about an effective cease-fire throughout the country, while at the same time pressing forward with parallel efforts to promote national reconciliation", he says. This would require, in his opinion, the establishment of a United Nations presence in all regions of the country and the adoption of an innovative and comprehensive approach dealing with all aspects of Somalia's situation, "namely, the humanitarian relief and recovery

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programme, the cessation of hostilities and security, the peace process and national reconciliation, in a consolidated framework".

As far the regions are concerned, the Secretary-General proposes to establish four operational zones: the north-west (Berbera), the north-east (Bossasso), the central rangeland and Mogadishu (Mogadishu), and the South (Kismayao). In each of the zones a consolidated United Nations operation will carry out the primary activities envisaged in Security Council resolution 751 (1992), such as: humanitarian activities, emergency relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction, monitoring of the ceasefire, security, demobilization and disarmament, and the peace process through conciliation and good offices.

According to the Secretary-General, looting and banditry remain a widespread problem in the capital city of Mogadishu and attacks on United Nations and non-governmental organization personnel have increased recently. Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali discloses that he has asked his Special Representative to pursue his consultations for the deployment of a security force there.

The Secretary-General also says that he intends to dispatch a technical team to Somalia as soon as possible "to examine inter alia: the possible monitoring of ceasefire arrangements in parts of the country other than Mogadishu; the possible deployment of military observers in the southwest region of Somalia's border with Kenya; the feasibility of an "arms for food" exchange programme; the need for security forces to provide escort and protection for humanitarian aid activities, and a possible role for the United Nations in assisting the re-establishment of local police forces".

The desperate and complex situation in Somalia will require energetic and sustained efforts on the part of the international community to break to cycle of violence and hunger, concludes the Secretary-General, before recommending, for the Council's approval, "a comprehensive and enlarged approach" to the Somali situation.

The Secretary-General's report was submitted to the Security Council in conformity with the provisions of Security Council resolution 751 (1992) concerning the situation in Somalia. The Secretary-General will submit a further report to the Council on the implementation of his recommendations, as soon as he receives the conclusions and recommendations of the technical team that he proposes to dispatch to the area.

In a separate development, the Secretary-General, said in a statement issued today that he had been informed that newly printed Somali currency notes, which had been ordered by the old regime, were being introduced into Somalia and circulated in the north of Mogadishu. The decision to introduce the new currency, he said, was contrary to an agreement last week that such circulation would be withheld. He appealed to the parties concerned to avoid introducing a new element of conflict which would only bring about further deterioration in the situation.

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"Given the unstable situation prevailing in Somalia today, and in particular the increasing tension in Mogadishu, the circulation of this currency might become the cause of renewed open hostilities", he said. "In the absence of a national government in control of the entire country or a general understanding among all Somali leaders, it is advisable to refrain from such an initiative."

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Two days after the Security Council demanded, in a unanimous decision, that Democratic Kampuchea (PDK) - one of the four Cambodian factions - allow without delay the deployment of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) into areas under its control, in compliance with the terms of the Paris Peace Agreements, Yasushi Akashi, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Cambodia, has indicated that cease-fire violations have continued and have become more serious, particularly in areas controlled by the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in northern Cambodia.

At a meeting of the Supreme National Council (SNC) chaired by its President, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Mr. Akashi underlined the willingness of UNTAC to meet its obligations under the Paris Agreements. He reaffirmed his commitment to establishing checkpoints along the Cambodian borders and to sending mobile investigation teams whenever necessary. He also told SNC members that the PDK had not participated in Mixed Military Working Group meetings for several weeks, thus compromising its effectiveness.

The meeting also examined questions concerning the verification of the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Cambodia. Mr. Akashi told the SNC that UNTAC was determined to investigate any allegations regarding the presence of troops, advisers and military personnel.

* * *

Rolf Ekeus, Head of the Special Commission, told the press at Headquarters today that he was continuing his discussions with the Iraqi Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Abd al-Amir Al-Anbari, on "modalities" for continuing the Special Commission's search for material related to Iraq's proscribed weapons programmes. He said that these were not negotiations: "We have no authority to negotiate; the resolutions of the Security Council are binding."

At the press briefing, Ambassador Ekeus said that the Chief Inspector of the inspection team that had been trying, from 5 July until its withdrawal yesterday, to gain access to the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in Baghdad, and five members of the team, had been sent to Bahrain to rest. However, there were still 65 Special Commission personnel in Baghdad, including aerial surveillance, chemical destruction team and support staff.

The Iraqi Foreign Ministry, in a statement transmitted by Ambassador Al-Anbari in a letter to the Secretary-General today, said that the decision to withdraw the United Nations inspection team from its 17-day vigil outside

the Agriculture Ministry "stems from the dilemma in which the Special Commission found itself" after Iraq expressed readiness to have a neutral team inspect the Ministry.

The statement also accused the inspection team of provoking the feelings of Iraqi citizens by taking up position in front of what he called "a symbol of sovereignty of the Iraqi people". It said that the underlying intention of claims about threats to safety of the team was "to create a situation which would enable the influential members of the Security Council harbouring hostility towards Iraq to commit unlawful intervention, to achieve political aims through aggression".

At a press conference in Vienna today, a spokesman for the Iraqi Mission to the United Nations said his country had allowed journalists and foreign diplomats to tour the Agriculture Ministry building. He called on the Security Council to adopt Iraq's proposal to appoint a neutral inspection team as a way out of the impasse: "We believe that the Security Council has the duty to understand the Iraqi position," he said.

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The Social Committee of the Economic and Social Council this morning recommended that the General Assembly proclaim an International Day of Cooperatives to be observed on the first Saturday in July 1995. The observance would mark the centenary of the International Cooperative Alliance, in recognition of the important contribution of cooperatives to social and economic development.

A draft resolution on the subject was approved without a vote by the Committee, along with two drafts on other social issues. According to one of the proposals, the Council would recommend that the Secretary-General convene in 1995 a World Summit for social development with representation at the Head of State or Government level. The other proposal would have the Council recommend that the Assembly extend the operation of the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons [1983-1992] beyond the Decade and to rename it the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability.

Also this morning, the Committee continued its debate on problems related to illicit drugs, hearing a number of statements on that question. The representative of the United States, Sharin Tahir-Kheli, pointed out that further progress in drug control had been made in the first part of this year when nine more countries ratified the 1988 Convention against traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. To date, 64 countries have depositied their instruments of ratification with the United Nations.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

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27 July 1992

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ United Nations inspectors, accompanied by Executive Chairman of Special Commission on Iraqi disarmament, due in Baghdad tomorrow to begin inspection of Iraq's Ministry of Agriculture, following agreement reached during the weekend.

+ Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission ends sixth session, with further report on land boundary; oil wells between Safwan and Batin remain in Kuwait, Iraq keeps access to sea at Umm Qasr.

+ Number of chronically undernourished people in developing countries down to 786 million for 1988-1990, from 941 million for 1969-1971, according to new study by Food and Agriculture Organization.

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A team of United Nations experts, accompanied by the Executive Chairman of the Special Commission on Iraqi Disarmament, Rolf Ekeus, is expected to arrive in Baghdad tomorrow to begin inspection of Iraq's Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. An agreement allowing the inspectors to search the building was reached over the weekend, after several rounds of talks on modalities for carrying out the inspections, between Mr. Ekeus and Abdul Amir Al-Anbari, Iraq's Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

At a press conference announcing the agreement, Mr. Ekeus said the inspection team was looking for documents concerning Iraq's ballistic weapons programmes and expressed hope for Iraqi cooperation in handing over all the relevant material in the building. He also told correspondents that the team would have five new members. Team composition had been a factor during his talks with the Iraqi representative, who had objected to the membership of one of its senior experts. Emphasizing that the Special Commission had the sole right to decide on team composition, Mr. Ekeus said "certain sensibilities had been taken into account" in selecting team members, without compromising the quality of the inspections.

At the conclusion of the talks on Sunday, Ambassador Al-Anbari said details had been finalized to the satisfaction of both the Special Commission

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and the Iraqi Government. He told the press that his objective had been to ensure full respect for Iraq's sovereignty and national security.

The decision to admit the inspectors into the Ministry of Agriculture building follows a 17-day standoff outside the Ministry building, during which the inspectors were repeatedly harassed by Iraqi demonstrators. Last Wednesday, after an attack on one member of the team by an unknown assailant, the team had been withdrawn from its monitoring position outside the Ministry.

Regarding the future safety of the inspectors, Mr. Ekeus said he had conveyed "very strong criticism of the way Iraq had handled security issues" in a letter to Ambassador Al-Anbari and had demanded full and adequate security for the team. He also said he would take up the matter personally during his visit to Iraq tomorrow.

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The Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission ended its sixth session on Friday, 24 July, in New York, completing a further report covering the land boundary, and agreed on arrangements for the physical representation of that boundary. In a press release issued today, the Commission stated that the demarcation was made after a detailed analysis of evidence it had assembled over the course of a year. Both Iraq and Kuwait, it said, had had every opportunity to provide it with all relevant material and evidence.

The Commission pointed out that the oil wells in the fields between Safwan and the Batin that had been exploited in the past by Iraq "already fell in Kuwait according to the boundary shown on the British map referred to in Security Council resolution 687 (1991)". Iraq's access to the sea was affirmed, the Commission noted, by the decisions to leave Umm Qasr port complex, including warehouses, deep-water anchorage, two wide berths and Umm Qasr village, and Khowr Zhobeir within Iraqi territory.

Rejecting "unequivocally...any allegations of partiality", the Commission stressed that it was not reallocating territory between Kuwait and Iraq, but was simply carrying out the technical task necessary to demarcate for the first time the precise coordinates of the international boundary between the two countries.

The Government of Iraq did not participate in the session. In a letter to the Secretary-General before the start of the meeting on 15 July, Foreign Minister Ahmad Hussein charged that the Commission was conducting its work in a manner detrimental to Iraq's interests, "because a prior and biased decision has been taken to harm Iraq's interests and deny its historic rights on the part of those countries that planned the Commission's work".

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The number of chronically undernourished people in developing countries with a population of more than 1 million is estimated to have fallen to 786 million for the 1988 to 1990 period, from 941 million for 1969 to 1971, according to findings just released by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The proportion of undernourished people in the population has decreased from 36 to 20 per cent.

That decrease in the percentage of undernourished people world-wide, however, was said to reflect the inclusion for the first time of China in FAO's estimates, with its huge but relatively well-nourished population. Also included for the first time were the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mongolia and Viet Nam.

Edouard Saouma, Director-General of FAO, emphasized that although many countries had made impressive progress in the fight against undernutrition, there was still "grave cause for concern", especially in Africa. "Much progress has been made, but much still remains to be accomplished", he said.

The FAO study is based on the minimum energy requirements of a person doing light, productive work, and considers household consumption over an entire year. The current figures do not reflect those who are undernourished due to temporary or seasonal falls in food consumption or problems of household food distribution or infectious diseases.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1192
28 July 1992

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council strongly supports Secretary-General's decision to send technical investigative team to Somalia; General Aidid reportedly blocking deployment of United Nations security personnel.

+ Nearly 800 Somali boat-people authorized into Kenya, following negotiations between local authorities and representatives of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

+ Secretary-General's Special Representative to South Africa, continuing official visit, meets broad spectrum of political and community leaders.

+ Participants in United Nations European Seminar on the Question of Palestine in Malta today propose measures to protect Palestinian people in occupied territories.

+ Team of experts sent by Secretary-General to Azerbaijan to investigate claims of use of chemical weapons by Armenian forces reports that they found no evidence of such use.

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The Security Council last night strongly supported the Secretary-General's decision to dispatch a technical team to Somalia to examine the possibility of monitoring cease-fire arrangements and deploying United Nations Military Observers in south-west Somalia, the feasibility of an "arms for food" exchange programme, the need for security forces to escort and protect humanitarian aid activities and the role of the United Nations in assisting the re-establishment of local police forces.

In unanimously adopting resolution 767 (1992), the Council also approved the Secretary-General's proposal to establish four operational zones in Somalia as part of the consolidated United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM). The text requested Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to make

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full use of all available means and arrangements, including mounting an urgent airlift, in accelerating the provision of humanitarian assistance to the affected population in Somalia which is threatened by mass starvation.

In addition, it called on all parties, movements and factions to cooperate with the United Nations with a view to the urgent deployment of the United Nations security personnel. In the absence of such cooperation, the Council did not exclude "other measures" to deliver assistance. The Council also reiterated its appeal to the international community to provide adequate financial and other resources for humanitarian efforts in Somalia.

For its consideration of the situation in that country, the Council had before it the Secretary-General's report on Somalia in which he concluded that the United Nations must "adapt" its involvement there, and that its efforts must be enlarged in an effort to bring about a cease-fire throughout the country, while at the same time pressing forward with parallel efforts to promote national reconciliation.

In a separate development, the Spokesman for the Secretary-General said today that there were reports that General Mohammed Farah Aidid, President of the United Somali Congress, was refusing to allow the deployment of 500 security personnel foreseen in the Security Council resolution. Negotiations were going on now between the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia, Ambassador Mohamed Sahnoun, and General Aidid in south-western Somalia.

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Nearly 800 Somali boat-people, seeking asylum in Kenya, have been evacuated from two vessels which arrived off that country's coast six days ago. The Kenyan authorities permitted the asylum-seekers to disembark after negotiations with representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The Kenyan rescue comes just one day after the Security Council called for an urgent airlift to supply relief assistance to Somalia, where an estimated 4.5 million people are facing starvation and death. The civil war in Somalia has sent some 800,000 people fleeing to neighbouring States, including Ethiopia, Djibouti, Yemen and Kenya, which now hosts 330,000 refugees.

The UNHCR report today said that most refugees, although exhausted, were in good shape.

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Continuing his official visit to South Africa, the Secretary-General's Special Representative to that country, Cyrus Vance, met yesterday with a number of political and community leaders with a view to making the widest possible recommendations to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. Among the officials with whom Mr. Vance held talks on Monday were: the Chairman of

the Afrikaner Freedom Foundation; the Head of the Independent Board of Inquiries; a senior judge of the Supreme Court, in connection with constitutional issues, as well as Members of Parliament, Lawyers for Human Rights and members of the Patriotic Front, parties to the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA).

Over last weekend, Mr. Vance held meetings with the leadership of the Communist Party, members of CODESA and senior government officials.

Last Friday, the Special Representative had met separately with Archbishop Desmond Tutu; the Chairman of the Commission of Inquiry into public violence; the Head of the National Peace Committee; a group of church leaders, and leaders of the Democratic Party.

Mr. Vance - appointed Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General in South Africa on 17 July - is expected to leave that country for New York on 31 July. His mission - in line with a Security Council resolution adopted 12 days ago - is to recommend measures which "would assist in bringing an effective end to the violence in South Africa, and in creating conditions for negotiations leading towards a peaceful transition to a democratic, non-racial and united South Africa".

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Participants in the United Nations European Seminar on the Question of Palestine taking place in Qawra, Malta, today proposed measures that could be taken by the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention, the international community and non-governmental organizations to protect the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories. Panelists addressing the three-day Seminar organized by the Palestinian Rights Committee suggested, among other ideas, lobbying governments to remind them of their duty to secure Israel's compliance with the Convention, and a letter-writing campaign to elected representatives on the issue of human rights violations by Israel.

Addressing the meeting yesterday, Guido de Marco, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Malta, said that prospects for positive movement on the question of Palestine had never been more encouraging than at present. He said Malta identified itself with the cause of the Palestinians and also understood the position of the Israelis, and he stressed that it was his belief that the two Semitic peoples must learn to live with each other in peace and freedom.

In a message to the seminar, Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), said the people of Israel had voted for peace and the PLO welcomed that long-awaited change, particularly after years of political gloom and religious and political extremism created in the region by Likud Governments.

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Mr. Arafat expressed hope that the new Israeli Government would institute a radical change in Israeli policy in favour of peace. If not, he said, the change that had occurred would be no more than a substitution of names.

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No evidence of use of chemical weapons was found and, although a number of events were presented as being suggestive of the involvement or use of chemical weapons, they all could also readily be explained by other causes. Furthermore, none of the events agreed with the pattern that would be expected from an attack involving chemical weapons.

This is the assessment made by the mission of experts dispatched by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to Azerbaijan to investigate allegations by Azerbaijani authorities of the use of chemical weapons by Armenian armed forces against Azerbaijani population.

In a report to the Secretary-General contained in a document dated 24 July, the three qualified experts explained that, after investigation, they had come to the conclusion that "neither the histories told nor the signs and symptoms observed pointed to any of the recognized chemical warfare agents". However, they noted, occasionally individuals "may have reacted to chemical substances that are present in conventional weapons".

The experts visited the area from 4 to 8 July.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1193
29 July 1992

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Despite "some misgivings", the latest recommendations for enlarged mandate of United Nations Protection Force in Croatia must be accepted, Secretary-General notes in report to Security Council.

+ General Assembly today, in resumed forty-sixth session, considers who should occupy seat of former Yugoslavia.

+ Ministerial-level International Meeting on aid to victims of conflict in former Yugoslavia convened by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees today in Geneva.

+ Inspection team of Special Commission on Iraqi Disarmament completes Agriculture Ministry search and leave Baghdad for Bahrain.

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Despite "some misgivings, in the light of the many other demands on the Organization's attention and resources", the latest recommendations by the Force Commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) relating to the enlargement of the mandate of the Force in Croatia "on the balance must be accepted if the effort already invested by the Security Council in Croatia is not to be undermined as a result of UNPROFOR's mandate being limited to control of military movements only or as a result of the Force lacking the necessary staff resources", noted Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali in a report dated 27 July addressed to the Security Council.

The Secretary-General reported that the Force Commander, Satish Nambiar, had requested that UNPROFOR be specifically given authority to control the entry of civilians into the United Nations protected areas (UNPAs) and that it should have powers to perform immigration and customs functions at the UNPA borders where these coincide with international frontiers. The Force Commander, said the Secretary-General, had also recommended an increase in the strength of UNPROFOR's civil affairs component.

These recommendations, said the Secretary-General, are drawing UNPROFOR "into quasi-governmental functions which go well beyond normal peace-keeping

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practice, have major resource implications and may stimulate demands for yet deeper United Nations involvement in this troubled region". He also informed the Council that preliminary estimates of the financial implications of these recommendationsa would be made available shortly.

If approved by the Security Council, these enlargements of the Force's mandate and strength would come on top of two previous enlargements in connection with Sarajevo airport and the "Pink Zones", contained in Security Council resolutions 758 (1992) and 762 (1992), respectively. In addition, there is the possibility that UNPROFOR will be asked to establish a military presence on the Prevlaka Peninsula "to ensure that it remains demilitarized".

The Secretary-General's report was submitted to the Council in accordance with resolution 762 (1992) of 30 June 1992. Its purpose is to inform the Council of progress made by the UNPROFOR in implementing the mandate entrusted to it in Croatia under the United Nations peace-keeping plan.

In a separate development, the Permanent Representative of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Muhamad Sacirbey, today told correspondents at Headquarters that many of the basic provisions of resolution 758 remained unimplemented. The shelling continued despite international supervision, and "the extremists" were able to arm themselves in Serbia and Montenegro through their own channels. In his opinion, the current arms embargo did not help improve the situation. "No one is coming to aid to fight off the agression; at the same time, we are being prevented from defending ourselves", he concluded.

* * *

At the resumed forty-sixth session of the General Assembly today, the question of who should assume the United Nations membership held by former Yugoslavia was addressed by representatives of the United States, the United Kingdom, Iceland, Austria, Slovenia and Croatia, all of whom took the position that Serbia and Montenegro had no automatic right to the seat and should have to apply for membership. The representative of the former Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) argued for its retention of the seat.

The Assembly also referred two agenda items to the Fifth Committee for consideration - one dealing with the United Nations common system, the other with funding for the United Nations Verification Mission in Angola (UNAVEM).

On Friday, the session will resume to consider the report of the Fifth Committee on those issues, and to deal with Georgia's application for membership of the Organization.

* * *

A ministerial-level International Meeting on aid to the victims of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia, convened by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), took place today at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. The High Commissioner for Refugees, Sadako Ogata, gave the opening address.

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Tomorrow, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee will meet in Geneva to review the response of the United Nations system to the emergency situation, and the relief needs of the affected population of the former Yugoslavia. The meeting, chaired by Jan Eliasson, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, will attempt to broaden the base of participation of the agencies of the United Nations system, of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and of the non-governmental organizations.

* * *

The team conducting an inspection of the Ministry of Agriculture in Baghdad, and the Executive Chairman of the Special Commission on Iraqi Disarmament, Rolf Ekeus, who was visiting the Iraqi capital, left for Bahrain today, a spokesman for the Special Commission, Nikita Smidovitch, told the press at Headquarters today. The inspectors were expected to assess their findings and present a report on the inspection to the Executive Chairman. He said too that Mr. Ekeus had met this morning with the Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz.

The spokesman said that no material or documents were removed from the building by the inspection team, other than their own notes. Politically, he said, the inspection was deemed a success because "we ascertained our right to inspect any place or building that we designate for inspection".

He said that there was some evidence that certain material had been removed and there had been some refurnishing of the building, but its significance would have to be considered and assessed by the whole inspection team.

The inspection of the Agriculture Ministry building followed an agreement on modalities reached at the weekend between the Executive Chairman of the Commission and the Iraqi authorities. The agreement came after Iraq had refused for 20 days to allow the inspection team to search the building for materials they believed it contained relating to the country's proscribed ballistic missile programme. The inspectors had maintained a round-the-clock vigil outside the building in an attempt to prevent the relevant material from being removed. They were withdrawn late last week in the face of escalating threats to their security and the failure by the Iraqi authorities to ensure their safety.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1194
30 July 1992

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Without immediate inflow of cash, the Organization will have to cease operations, Secretary-General warns in latest update on United Nations financial situation.

+ Secretary-General decides to send small group of United Nations officials to South Africa, to observe mass demonstrations organized early next week by African National Congress.

+ Participants in United Nations European Seminar on the Question of Palestine, concluding three-day session, express hope that new Israeli Government will make radical policy changes in favour of peace.

+ Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Iraq, prompted by reports of widespread, grave human rights violations in south Iraq, addresses urgent appeal to the Iraqi Foreign Minister.

+ Executive Chairman of Special Commission on Iraqi disarmament, back from Baghdad, says search of Agriculture Ministry was "full and absolute" success, though no relevant material on Iraq's proscribed weapons programme was found.

+ Security Council votes unanimously to extend mandate of United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) for another six-month period until January 31, 1993.

* * *

Without an immediate inflow of cash, the Organization would have to cease operations, observed Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali in a report dated 23 July on the financial situation of the United Nations.

Overall, he said, unpaid assessed contributions amounted to over $1.75 billion by mid-July, with only 52 of the 163 Member States having paid in full their dues to the 1992 regular budget. Unpaid assessed contributions totalled more than $900 million, while unpaid contributions to peace-keeping operations remained high - over $844 million. However, writes the Secretary-General,

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current projections suggest that in that area sufficient cash might be available to meet the requirements of these operations through mid-October.

The United States is listed as owing over $555 million in outstanding contributions to its U.N. regular budget, while the Russian Federation is listed to be owing over $277 million for the peace-keeping operations. The report, based on the data available as of 15 July, was issued to update the information previously provided to Member States on the financial situation of the United Nations.

* * *

The Secretary-General has decided to send a small group of United Nations officials to South Africa, to be present during the mass demonstrations organized early next week by the African National Congress (ANC).

The Spokesman of the Secretary-General also told correspondents today that the dispatch of this group had been requested by Nelson Mandela, President of the ANC, and agreed to by the Government of South Africa. The modalities of the dispatch were discussed in detail with the authorities by Cyrus Vance, Special Representative of the Secretary-General.

The group, which will constitute an independent presence, will be working through the National Peace Committee, which is a non-partisan group stemming from the National Peace Accords.

The group is scheduled to leave for South Africa tomorrow and will remain there for approximately 15 days.

* * *

Participants attending the Seventh United Nations European Seminar on the Question of Palestine, concluding their three-day session yesterday, expressed hope that the new Israeli Government would institute radical changes in its policies in favour of peace.

Seminar participants also adopted a set of conclusions and recommendations calling on the Israeli Government to declare its agreement with the principle of "land for peace", to comply with United Nations resolutions and to acknowledge the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

The Seminar also pointed to the need for an active United Nations role in order to ensure a successful outcome of the Middle East peace process. They were also of the opinion that a more active European contribution to the Middle East peace conference would be welcomed.

Before the closing, Giorgio Giacomelli, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna, conveyed Secretary-General Boutros-Boutros Ghali's hope that the process launched in Madrid and sustained during bi-lateral and multi-lateral negotiations, would be reinvigorated. He also expressed hope

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that the lasting peace so long denied the peoples of the Middle East would become a reality.

* * *

Reports of widespread and grave human rights violations in South Iraq prompted the Special Rapporteur designated by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights to examine the Iraqi situation to address an urgent appeal yesterday to the Iraqi Foreign Minister.

Max van der Stoel, reacting to allegations of military attacks against civilian settlements, including the use of heavy artillery to bombard villages and hamlets indiscriminatly, expressed particular concern over the need to protect the rights to life and physical integrity. Appealing to the Iraqi authorities to put an end to what appears to be intentionally repressive policies, the Special Rapporteur called for an immediate end to the military attacks and for consultations with the local population in relation to the implementation by the Government of a water diversion and village amalgamization programme which directly affects them.

The Special Rapporteur was originally appointed by the Chairman of the Human Rights Commission in June 1991 in accordance with a March 1991 resolution adopted by the Commission. In a report submitted to the Commission in February, Mr. van der Stoel of the Netherlands had strongly recommended the sending of human rights monitors to Iraq.

* * *

Ambassador Rolf Ekeus, Executive Chairman of the Special Commission on Iraqi disarmament, back in New York today from Baghdad, briefed the Security Council on the search of the Iraqi Agriculture Ministry building by the Special Commission's team of experts. Addressing the press later, he said he regarded the search as a full and complete success, though no material relating to Iraq's proscribed weapons programme had been found.

The agreement not to select personnel from the countries of the coalition involved in the war with Iraq last year had been a gesture on the Commission's part to accomodate Iraq's sensitivities. However, Mr. Ekeus said, the final selection of the team included outstandingly well qualified experts.

With reference to his talks with Mr. Tariq Aziz, Mr. Ekeus said that he had been given "a very impressive catalogue of reasons" why Iraq did not want to renew the Memorandum of Agreement covering humanitarian relief efforts in the country. But the Iraqis had not said yet they would refuse to renew the agreement.

* * *

In a resolution adopted unanimously today, the Security Council decided to extend the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) for another six-month period until January 31, 1993.

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By adopting the resolution 768 (1992), the Council reiterated its strong support for the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Lebanon within its internationally recognized boundaries.

The text again called on all the parties to cooperate fully with the Force for the full implementation of its mandate and it asked the Secretary-General to continue his consultations with the Government of Lebanon and other parties directly concerned with the implementation of the present resolution.

In a statement by the President of the Council, Jose Luis Jesus of Cape Verde, Council members also asserted that "any State shall refrain from the threat or use of force against territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations".

In the statement, members also reiterated their support for the continued efforts of the Lebanese Government to consolidate peace, national unity and security in the country and commended it for its successful efforts to deploy units of its army in the south of the country in full coordination with UNIFIL. They also expressed concern over the continuing violence in southern Lebanon and the loss of civilian life, and urged all the parties to exercise restraint.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

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31 July 1992

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Georgia admitted to membership of the United Nations, becoming the 179th Member State and thirteenth to join this year.

+ Composition announced of United Nations team to observe mass demonstrations in South Africa next week; team scheduled to meet in Johannesburg on Sunday.

+ General Assembly approves Fifth Committee's recommendation to appropriate an additional $15 million for operation of second United Nations Angola Verification Mission.

+ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to hold follow-up conference to International Literacy Year 1990 at Headquarters, from 3 to 6 August.

+ Committee on Racial Discrimination starts two-week session in Geneva on Monday, 3 August; duration of current meeting cut due to Committee's shortage of funds.

* * *

Georgia was admitted to membership of the United Nations this morning, becoming the Organization's 179th Member State and the thirteenth to join this year.

Speaking at the flag-raising ceremony, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali expressed the belief that the contribution of Georgia to the Organization "will be profound and significant, worthy of its stirring and vibrant history as well as its rich and diverse culture."

The Representative of the United States, as co-sponsor of its application and host country, welcomed Georgia's admission, saying that his Government looked forward to this country abiding by its commitment to the peaceful settlement of disputes and non-use of force, especially as applied to the conflict in South Ossettia.

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He urged continued respect for those principles and all the other revelant principles of the Charter and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. "In this regard we are pleased to note that efforts are underway to implement a cease-fire agreement in South Ossettia and to achieve a peaceful settlement of the conflict", he said.

* * *

The composition has been announced of the United Nations team being dispatched to observe the mass demonstrations scheduled to take place throughout South Africa next week. Two members are already in the country, having accompanied Cyrus Vance, the Secretary-General's Special Representative, on his recently-concluded mission to South Africa. They are Hisham Omayad of Ghana, who will lead the group, and Shola Omoregie of Nigeria.

The other members of the team are: B.G. Ramcharan (Guyana), J. Renninger (USA), Miriam Freedman (USA), Joan T. Seymour (Guyana), Shigeru Mochida (Japan), Rehana Ahmad-Haque (USA) and Jose Campino (Portugal). They are to leave for London tonight, and will be arriving in Johannesburg on Sunday morning. There they will meet with Mr. Omayad and be briefed on their duties.

The group's mission to the country was requested by the African National Congress (ANC), which is organizing the demonstrations. The South African Government agreed to their coming and discussed modalities for it with Mr. Vance.

* * *

The General Assembly this morning approved without a vote the recommendation of the Administrative and Budgetary (Fifth) Committee that the Assembly appropriate an additional $15 million, including $2.9 million previously authorized, for the operation of the second United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II), for the period from 1 January to 31 October.

The Committee had authorized the additional funding by approving a draft resolution yesterday, after consideration of a report of the Secretary-General on financing the Angolan Verification Mission. By the text, the Assembly urges all member States to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Mission on time. It also requests that the Secretary-General take all necessary action to ensure that United Nations activities related to the Angolan peace process, including elections, be administered in a coordinated fashion with a maximum of efficiency and economy.

Earlier this month, UNAVEM II reported that it had registered 1.2 million of the estimated 5.3 million voters nationwide. The operation aims to register 2.5 million voters in time for the Angolan elections scheduled for 29 and 30 September.

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The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) will be holding a follow-up conference to International Literacy Year 1990 at United Nations Headquarters, from 3 to 6 August.

The Conference, organized in conjunction with the City University of New York and the Literacy Centre of New York, will examine the demands for literacy skills posed by life in urban areas. It will also seek to identify promising practices, and to map out strategies for the decade ahead.

Mayor David Dinkins of New York is scheduled to attend the opening ceremony on Monday.

* * *

The Committee on Racial Discrimination will be holding its only session for the year in Geneva from Monday, 3 August to Friday, 14 August. The session has been cut back from its usual three weeks to two because of the Committee's critical financial situation. This should also have been its second session of the year, but the spring meeting was cancelled altogether because of the shortage of funds.

The 18-member Committee, charged with monitoring the implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, was the first body created by the United Nations to review actions taken by States to fulfil their obligations under a specific human rights agreement. The failure of a number of States parties to fulfil their financial obligations under the Convention has led to the present curtailment.

Steps have been taken recently to improve the Committee's financial position. In January, in New York, at the 14th meeting of the States parties to the Convention, a resolution was approved calling for the Secretary-General to provide the necessary staff and facilities for the Committee to perform its functions effectively.

At the session starting on Monday, the Committee will be considering periodic reports by Belgium, Ghana, Costa Rica, Greece, Bangladesh, Colombia, Ecuador, Maldives, Chile, Yemen and Australia, detailing measures they have adopted to combat racial discrimination.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1196
3 August 1992

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ United Nations observer team, deployed throughout South Africa, today witnessed first day of mass demonstrations organized by African National Congress.

+ More than 4.3 million voters registered for Angolan elections in September; Secretary-General's Special Representative calls Angolan response an "unequivocal evidence" of desire for peace and democracy.

+ Number of flights in United Nations humanitarian airlift to Sarajevo reaches 500.

+ President of Bosnia and Herzegovina requests Security Council to immediately pass resolution clarifying intent of arms embargo on Yugoslavia adopted in September 1991.

+ Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali welcomes cease-fire agreement between Government of Rwanda and Rwandan Patriotic Front, in effect since 31 July.

+ Talks between Secretary-General and leaders of the two communities in Cyprus continue this week, in pursuit of overall agreement on integrated State.

+ United Nations guard in Baghdad shot at by unknown assailant.

+ Economic and Social Development Council suspends 1992 substantive session, with emphasis on sustainable development and revitalization of its own structure.

+ Egypt to host International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo in September 1994.

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The ten members of the United Nations observer team, deployed throughout South Africa yesterday, were witness today to the first day of mass demonstrations organized by the African National Congress (ANC).

Seven team members flew into Johannesburg yesterday, and joined the three colleagues who were already in the country, including the group leader, Hisham Omayad of Ghana. They were briefed on their assignments before being dispatched to nine different locations.

The group, whose presence was requested by the ANC and approved by the South African Government, is working closely with the National Peace Secretariat, a non-partisan local organization which emerged from the signing of the National Peace Accords. The observers are scheduled to be in South Africa for a week, but the exact date of their depar ure will be decided in consultation with the Peace Secretariat.

In a separate development, the Secretary-General's Special Representative to South Africa, Cyrus Vance, returned to New York today, following a two-week visit to that country. He is expected to report to the Secretary-General on his recommendations for steps that can be taken to help halt the violence in South Africa, and bring about the resumption of negotiations.

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At 31 July, more than 4.3 million voters had been registered for the Angolan elections scheduled for 29 and 30 September, as compared with a target of 4 million earlier set for that date. About one million more eligible voters remain to be registered. In order to accomodate them, the period of registration was extended to 10 August, according to the National Electoral Council of Angola.

In a press communiqué dated 3 August, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Angola, Margaret J. Anstee, also praised the achievements of the registration exercise, describing them as quite remarkable given the "enormous constraints of transport, communication and other vital logistical support in a country ravaged by 30 years of continuous strife".

According to her, the achievements were unequivocal evidence of the determination of the Angolan people "to opt for peace and democracy, and of the enthusiastic support of the whole population for the electoral process, as well as of the calming presence of the United Nations observers".

Moreover, continued Ms. Anstee, the fact that 13 Presidential candidates had been nominated, and 24 political parties established, demonstrated that Angola was well on the way to multi-party democracy.

However, the Special Representative cautioned that during the next few critical weeks, the continued support and interest of the international community will be "of vital importance". A relatively modest effort now could

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preempt many future problems that might otherwise arise, and not only consolidate the future of Angola, but also make a signal contribution to the stability and progress of the whole region of Southern Africa.

* * *

The number of sorties flown in the United Nations humanitarian airlift to the besieged city of Sarajevo reached 500 on Sunday.

In a press release issued 2 August, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) also indicated that the 500th sortie had been completed yesterday by a French plane. A total of 18 nations have participated in the emergency airlift, which is being coordinated jointly by the UNHCR and the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR).

Since it began on 3 July, the airlift has delivered more than 6,200 metric tons of food, medical and other relief supplies for the estimated 450,000 people trapped in and around Srajevo.

For the High Commissioner for Refugees, Sadako Ogata, the airlift demonstrated the determination of the international community to help the innocent victims of the war. "For the residents of Sarajevo, the airlift is much more than a symbolic humanitarian gesture", she said. "It is an act of solidarity to try to save the people of Sarajevo from destruction".

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Citing its "legal and moral obligation to protect all of its citizens against foreign aggression", the President of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Alija Izetbegovic, requested in a letter dated 29 July that the Security Council immediately pass a resolution "in order to clarify its intent when imposing an arms embargo on Yugoslavia in September 1991".

In the letter addressed to the President of the Council, Mr. Izetbegovic contends that the arms embargo imposed on his country "is creating a power vacuum in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which could become detrimental to the survival of the democratically elected Government". Article 51 of the United Nations Charter grants every Member "the inherent right of individual or collective self-defense if an armed attack occurs against a Member...", observed the Bosnian President.

"Without arms for Sarajevo "the balance of power remains skewed, and genocide continues", says the letter. "The Belgrade regime and its surrogates have no incentive to negotiate honestly since the balance of power is so strongly in their favour".

The Bosnian President ends his request by saying that if the Security Council "is not in a position to implement the measures necessary for the protection of a Member State faced with an outside armed attack, it should not

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obstruct that Member State in providing for its self-defense".

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has welcomed the formal cease-fire agreement between the Government of Rwanda and the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) which came into effect at midnight on 31 July. Representatives of the two parties reached the agreement - which contains provision for the deployment of observers from Member States of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) - in Arusha, Tanzania, on 14 July.

In a statement, Friday, Mr. Boutros-Ghali noted "the constructive approach taken at the regional level and the important outcome it helped produce". He also said he was pleased to learn that Member States of the United Nations had expressed willingness to provide logistical support to facilitate the implementation of the agreement.

The Secretary-General reiterated his support for efforts to resolve the conflict and called on the parties to comply fully with the provisions of the agreement in order to facilitate negotiations leading to the signing of peace accords.

* * *

Talks between the Secretary-General and leaders of the two communities in Cyprus, which resumed on 15 July, are set to continue during this week. He met this morning with Rauf Denktash, leader of the Turkish Cypriot community, and this afternoon with President George Vassiliou of Cyprus.

The objective of the talks is to reach an agreement on a set of ideas for an overall agreement on Cyprus as an integrated whole. In this context, the talks this week will concern the issues of territory and displaced persons.

* * *

A Czech member of the United Nations Guard was shot at early on Sunday morning in the parking lot of the Palestine Hotel in Baghdad, according to statement made by a United Nations Spokeswoman at headquarters today. The soldier, Vanek Stanislav, was not injured, and a letter of protest had been sent to the Foreign Ministry in Iraq.

There have been a series of attacks on United Nations guards in the past few weeks, including the fatal shooting of a Fijian soldier in northern Iraq. The Memorandum of Agreement between the Organization and the Iraqi Government, covering the presence of the Guard, expired a month ago and has not yet been renewed.

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The work accomplished during the current session of the Economic and Social Development Council should make it one of the most productive in recent

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years, the Council was told on Friday by Ji Chaozhu, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Development. In a closing statement delivered as the Council suspended its 1992 substantive session, he said that future peace, security and global stability depended on the world's collective ability to improve the living standards everywhere. The Council had considered many proposals for its own revitalization, but key to its thrust was the issue of poverty-eradication, achieved through sustainable development.

Winding up the current session, the Council took action on a number of issues including decolonization, the development of energy resources of developing countries, promotion of the goals of rural women, regional cooperation, access to United Nations information systems, and the establishment of the Council's new subsidiary bodies.

On decolonization, the Council adopted a text urging increased support for the opponents to apartheid in South Africa and the use of concerted and effective measures to ensure its speedy end. Seeking increased assistance to the Palestinian people, it also called for immediate lifting of Israeli restrictions on the implementation of aid projects by the United Nations Development Programme and other United Nations bodies.

Among other texts on development adopted on Friday was one reaffirming that an adequate flow of resources was needed to help developing countries finance the exploration and development of their own energy resoures.

* * *

Egypt will host the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo from 5 to 13 September 1994. As host country, Egypt will be responsible for providing premises and facilities for the Conference as well as funding the travel of United Nations staff and the Conference support costs.

Dr. Nafis Sadik, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Executive Director and the Secretary-General of the forthcoming Conference, has expressed gratification to the Egyptian Government, whose offer to host the Conference was approved on 30 July by the Economic and Social Council. According to Dr. Sadik, the 1994 Conference will give the world's Governments an opportunity "to review the many links between population and development and to establish a specific agenda for effective action in the twenty-first century."

The overall theme of the 1994 Conference will be population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development. To that end, the Conference will update and consolidate the World Population Plan of Action, as well as the recommendations adopted at the International Conference on Population in Mexico City in 1984. In addition, Dr. Sadik has also stated that the population and development recommendations contained in Agenda 21 of the recently concluded United Nations Conference on Environment and Development would also be reviewed by the 1994 Conference.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1197
4 August 1992

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ With Sarajevo under heavy mortar fire, Secretary-General announces suspension of United Nations operations for 72 hours, pending efforts to re-establish cease-fire; UNPROFOR's outgoing Chief of Staff for Sarajevo says he hopes shelling around Sarajevo airport is not a deliberate escalation of the conflict.

+ Ukranian officer serving with UNPROFOR in Sarajevo died on 1 August of wounds sustained in mortar attack on 31 July; one other injured critically, three others lightly wounded.

+ New team of United Nations weapons inspectors being sent to Iraq on 8 August.

+ United Nations Spokeswoman Nadia Younes informed correspondents today that Sarajevo had been under a very heavy mortar fire much of the day and on three occasions the airport had been closed.

* * *

In a statement issued this afternoon, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali announced that he had accepted the recommendation of the Force Commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), made in consultation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), that United Nations operations at Sarajevo airport be suspended for a period of 72 hours, effective from 6 p.m. local time. .

The Secretary-General condemned today's shelling of Sarajevo airport, saying that the attacks, "which appear to have been deliberate, have jeopardized the safety of both United Nations personnel and aircraft as well as the security of humanitarian supplies".

The statement says that during the period that the airlift is suspended, the Deputy Force Commander of UNPROFOR, Major General Philippe Morillon, will travel to Sarajevo to assess the situation and to seek from all parties a reaffirmation of their commitment to the June 6 agreement which made it possible to reopen the airport. "In particular", it continues, "he will

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endeavour to re-establish the cease-fire, which has been increasinly violated in recent days, and obtain serious commitments from the parties to adhere strictly to it in future. After 72 hours and in light of General Morillon's report, a decision will be taken with regard to the future of the operation."

In the meantime, every effort would be made to continue to deliver relief supplies by land to the strife-affected regions of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In a press conference at headquarters today, UNPROFOR's outgoing Chief of Staff for Sarajevo, General Lewis McKenzie, said that he hoped the mortar fire around Sarajevo airport today was an anomally and not a deliberate escalation of the conflict. He explained that the airport was in an area where both sides were seeking territorial gains. "I don't think it threatens the airlift", he said.

The priority now was to establish a road corridor, with 20 kilometres secured on either side, to bring relief supplies to the villages and towns elsewhere in the country that were suffering significantly more hardship than Sarajevo. The situation in the city, he said, had been relatively better in recent weeks, with generally reduced shelling.

Describing UNPROFOR as "obsessed with impartiality", General McKenzie said, "They asked for a peace-keeping force and they got a peace-keeping force." Responding to the repeated query as to why the Force did not attack those firing on the city, he said that would destroy its impartiality and leave its personnel too vulnerable, as "the most important hostages" around.

Asked about reports of Serbian concentration camps, he said that there had been protests from both sides about detention centres, and he would give no judgment on the issue. Stressing again UNPROFOR's mandate, he said it had no responsibility for anything outside of Sarajevo.

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In a separate development, the Spokeswoman announced that a Ukranian officer serving with UNPROFOR in Sarajevo, Cergei Topikha, died on 1 August as a result of wounds sustained the day before. He and another Ukranian soldier were seriously injured and another three were wounded but not badly, when their position was hit by mortar fire on Friday, 31 July.

Officer Topikha and the other seriously wounded soldier, Yuri Karpenko, were taken to hospital in Ulm, Germany, where he died. Yuri Karpenko was still in hospital, in a critical condition. The other three were treated in Sarajevo.

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A new team of 26 United Nations weapons inspectors, headed by Nikita Smidovic, is being sent to Iraq this Saturday, in connection with that country's weapons of mass destruction and the Chairman of the Special Commission on Iraqi Disarmament has said that he has informed the Deputy Prime

Minister that "there would be very swift reaction if there was any attempt to block us this time".

Making the announcement at a press conference at Headquarters today, Ambassador Ekéus, said the 26-member team, which is currently being assembled in Bahrain, will visit "very important sites and locations where we have reason to suspect that prohibited material of significance is stored or hidden". He also pointed out that Iraq is still refusing to give information on their foreign supplier network and the Special Commission would continue the search for such information at this time.

Explaining the team's composition, he said there would be a "very high component" of members from the coalition, saying that the Special Commission was "highly dependent" on the major weapons countries - the United States, United Kingdom of France, which had extensive expertise in this area. He said the new team first had to meet certain strict criteria such as knowledge, experience, resilience and courage, and that nationality was not a priority requirement for selection. Despite Iraq's objections to including coalition members on the team, he said, he was convinced that its authorities would "like to see a new chapter between Iraq and the Special Commission" and would cooperate.

Referring to the latest barring of UNSCOM inspectors for 17 days from entering the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in Baghdad, Ambassador Ekéus said, "Iraq has learned a very severe lesson that it was a very close call this last time," he said. "My deepest worry was that Iraq didn't realize how how dangerous the situation really was and therefore I have some modest belief that now it will not be repeated".

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1198
5 August 1992

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ United States indicates it is developing, with other members of Security Council, resolution calling on States and organizations "to collect substantiated information" on "war crimes"; requests earliest possible convening of Commission on Human Rights in Geneva to discuss "dangerous deterioration" of human rights situation in former Yugoslavia.

+ Security Council demands that International Committee of the Red Cross and other relevant organizations be granted immediate access to locations in former Yugoslavia where civilians have reportedly been imprisoned and abused.

+ According to United Nations data update, world's urban population is growing more slowly than expected, with 1985-1990 growth rate down to 2.7 per cent per annum, from previous estimate of 3.1 per cent.

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The United States Government is developing, with other members of the Security Council, a resolution which would call on States and organizations "to collect substantiated information" concerning "war crimes" and make that information available to the Security Council.

In a press release issued today by the United States Mission to the United Nations, Acting Secretary of State, Lawrence S. Eagleburger, also indicated that, in light of an increasing number of reports over the past week showing the possibility of "executions, torture and other gross human rights abuses" and of "detention centers in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia", his Government was undertaking "renewed efforts to tighten sanctions enforcement....to ensure that the effect of the United Nations sanctions on the Serbian economy is as devastating as possible".

In a letter addressed earlier today to Antoine Blanca, Under Secretary General for Human Rights, the United States requested the convening of the Commission on Human Rights in an exceptional session "at the earliest possible date" in Geneva. Citing the "dangereous deterioration of the human rights situation in the former Yugoslavia, and great concern over "potentially

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For information media—not an official record

massive human rights violations", the letter also indicated that there had been reports of "citizens being rounded up and summarly and arbitrarily executed", and "of villages being destroyed and homes demolished". Furthermore, the letter said, "international authorities have been hindered in their efforts to gain access to sites of alleged brutality".

Under these conditions, the United States Government believed "it was imperative" for the United Nations Commission on Human Rights to engage in high-level consideration of this situation.

A Spokeswoman for the Secretary-General told correspondents today that the 53 Commission members had until Monday, 10 August, to consider the request. In the event that the majority - 27 members - decided to respond favourably, an extraordinary session of the Commission could be called at the end of the following week.

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The Security Council last night demanded that the International Committee of the Red Cross and other relevant organizations be granted immediate, unimpeded and continuous access to locations in the former Yugoslavia where civilians have reportedly been imprisoned and abused.

Council President Li Daoyu (China) read out a statement on behalf of the members, in which they called upon all parties to do everything in their power to facilitate access to those places in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the other former Yugoslav republics which are reportedly being used as "camps, prisons and detention centres".

The Council reiterated the obligation of all parties under international humanitarian law and, in particular, under the 1949 Geneva Conventions. It also reaffirmed that "persons who commit or order the commission of grave breaches of the Conventions are individually responsible in respect of such breaches".

In a letter to the Council President dated 29 July, the Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations listed 94 camps and prisons in Bosnia and Herzegovina and 11 in Serbia and Montenegro, which, the letter alleges, hold tens of thousands of Bosnian civilians. The letter also requested the Council to take all necessary steps to secure the safety of those interned and allow them to return home.

The list gives the approximate number of prisoners held and the number of those who were killed at each location. According to the letter, the information is based on data collected up to 26 July by various State organs and institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Among the places listed as locations for camps are such places as football stadiums and sports halls, barracks, school buildings, movie theatres and factories.

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New figures reported by the United Nations show that between 1985 and 1990 the world's urban population grew more slowly than expected, at a rate of 2.7 per cent per annum, as opposed to the 3.1 per cent rate previously estimated. Between 1990 and 1995 that rate is expected to decline further, to 2.6 per cent, though that still means there will be an additional 321 million urban dwellers.

Those data are part of the recently released 1992 revision of estimates and projections updated every two years by the Population Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Development (DESD).

Census data that has become available during the past two years contained a number of surprises, generally leading to a downward adjustment of the United Nations urban population estimates. The 1990 estimate of the share of the world's population living in urban areas was lowered slightly, from 45 per cent to 43 per cent, yielding the 2.7 per cent growth rate. Correspondingly, the urban growth rate estimate for the less developed regions was lowered from 4.5 per cent in 1985-1990 to 3.8 per cent.

Of particular importance in this revision is China, which currently comprises 22 per cent of the world's population. Analysis of its 1990 census showed 79 million fewer urban dwellers than earlier projected. New data or analyses also led the United Nations to significantly reduce its estimates of urbanization for a number of African countries, for example, Somalia (from 36 per cent to 24 per cent), Zaire (from 39 per cent to 28 per cent) and South Africa (from 59 per cent to 49 per cent).

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1199
6 August 1992

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Heavy shelling continues in Sarajevo, as Deputy Force Commander of United Nations Protection Force holds talks there on breakdown of cease-fire; suspension of airlift scheduled to end tomorrow.

+ Information on atrocities in detention camps in former Yugoslavia had been handled with care not to jeopardize those at risk, representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees tells press.

+ United Nations Development Programme approves "Capacity 21" initiative, to help developing countries prepare and manage sustainable development plans; initial $18 million committed for the effort.

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There had been "exceedingly heavy" shelling around Sarajevo airport today, the Spokeswoman for the Secretary-General told correspondents today. She noted that the 72-hour suspension of the humanitarian airlift to Sarajevo, ordered in response to the escalation of shelling on Tuesday, was due to end tomorrow evening.

She also indicated that the Deputy Force Commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), Major General Philippe Morillon, was in Sarajevo conducting talks with the parties to the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina today, on the breakdown of the ceasefire. He had arrived in the Bosnian capital yesterday aboard a French military aircraft.

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Information on human rights violations and atrocities in detention camps in former Yugoslavia had never been kept from public knowledge, but in publicizing the matter, one also had to make sure not to jeopardize the lives of those one was trying to help, a representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Albert Alain Peters told reporters at a press briefing at Headquarters today.

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For information media – not an official record

For that reason, he explained, the information had been passed on to the organization responsible for investigating allegations about detainees and prisoners, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The ICRC had "worked very hard" on the issue, interviewing and examining 4,000 people since 7 July, "in a context which is extremely difficult to access".

In a press release issued today, UNHCR said that for its part, it tried "to expose human rights abuses whenever it can without jeopardizing the lives and security of the victims or those involved in humanitarian operations". That is what UNHCR had done in the case of a document issued on 27 July, which gave details of one of the worst alleged prison camps, and which was circulated to 4,300 journalists, diplomats and humanitarian organizations worldwide.

The UNHCR said it welcomed the growing international concern over reports of widespread human rights abuses in former Yugoslavia. Although UNHCR had no first-hand confirmation of such violations, it had passed on to ICRC information on alleged abuses collected by UNHCR field officers from various credible sources.

"For these reasons", the release says, "UNHCR welcomes all efforts to promote humanitarian access to victims of the war in ex-Yugoslavia, including a 4 August UN Security Council statement demanding immediate access to all detention centres by ICRC and relevant international organizations. Recent media reports have also played an invaluable role in this process."

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The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) yesterday approved the "Capacity 21" initiative, to support developing countries in the preparation and management of their own sustainable development plans. The UNDP and the Governments of Japan, Canada and other donors have committed an initial $18 million to this effort. Contributions are expected to reach $100 million by the end of the year.

The recent United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro called on countries to integrate environmental considerations into all development activities and to prepare sustainable development strategies. Agenda 21, adopted at the Conference, provides a guideline for global action along those lines. The Capacity 21 initiative translates that into effective national programmes, making the best possible use of United Nations agencies, regional institutions and non-governmental organizations.

The initiative will focus on human resources training and the strengthening of key regional and national institutions, such as universities, research centres, governmental offices and non-governmental offices. In addition, Capacity 21 will assist in the exchange of environmentally sound technologies, and improve the capabilities of countries to utilize those technologies.

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The initiative emerged from UNDP assessments of country needs, made in preparation for the Conference in Rio. The studies showed that the lack of national capacities to formulate and implement environmental policies could prove to be a major obstacle in making sustainable development work.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1200
7 August 1992

F R I D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

+ Secretary-General briefs Security Council on his Special Representative's mission to South Africa; recommends sending 30 observers to serve in South Africa.

+ Four French soldiers with United Nations Protection Force injured this morning in mortar attack on United Nations headquarters building in Sarajevo.

+ Moldova asks Secretary-General to consider possibility of sending United Nations observer mission to Moldova to supervise implementation of peace agreement for Dniester region.

+ World Bank approves $600 million loan to Russian Federation to provide foreign exchange to purchase critically needed imports to address recent decline in production.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recommended that the United Nations make available some 30 observers to serve in South Africa, in close association with the South African National Peace Secretariat, in order to enhance "the capacity of indigenous structures that can play a major role in the building of peace, both in the present and in the future". The number of observers, he continues, could be supplemented by other appropriate international organizations, such as the Commonwealth, the European Community and the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

The Secretary-General made the recommendation in a report submitted to the Security Council this afternoon on the recently-concluded visit to South Africa by his Special Representative for that country, Cyrus Vance. He also proposes that, in order for the Security Council to be provided with regular, impartial and objective information, further missions such as that of Mr. Vance be undertaken "on a quarterly basis, or more frequently, if the situation so warrants".

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Mr. Boutros-Ghali urges the international community to support "the far-reaching" work undertaken by Justice Richard Goldstone, Chairman of the Commission of Enquiry into Public Violence and Intimidation. He further calls on the Government of South Africa and the various parties, to "fully and speedily" implement the Commission's recommendations, for instance, those relating to a total ban on the public display of dangerous weapons and the security of workers' hostels. He says he believes the leaders of the major political parties should, as the Commission recommends, take firm steps to stop their supporters from participating in acts of violence.

Stressing that the task of conducting negotiations on the creation of a democratic, non-racial and united South Africa is "uniquely the responsibility of South Africans themselves", the Secretary-General says he was "heartened" by statements made to his Special Representative of the determination of the major parties to return, as early as possible, to the negotiating table. In his opinion, the CODESA process "must be pursued, and improved", despite "all of its shortcomings". "It needs to encourage others, who have not yet joined, to do so", says Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

He adds that he is "strongly of the view that actions such as the immediate release of all remaining political prisoners could contribute greatly to improving the political climate, creating trust and burying the unhappy past".

In a separate development, part of the team of United Nations observers who have been in South Africa this past week are due back at Headquarters this weekend. A few team members will remain in South Africa to observe the further demonstrations over the next couple of days.

The team was sent to South Africa at the request of the African National Congress, which organized the mass demonstrations held throughout the country on Monday and Tuesday to call for a transition to non-racial democracy. The South African Government agreed to the United Nations team coming to the country to provide an independent observer presence at the demonstrations.

In yet another development, the Special Committee against Apartheid has announced that on Monday, 10 August, a meeting will be held to mark the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of Women in South Africa, which is observed annually on 9 August.

In the afternoon, there will be a panel discussion on the situation of women and other vulnerable groups in the transition process in that country, and on assistance that the international community can provide to redress the consequences of years of apartheid. On the panel will be a number of prominent South African women from the various parties in the country.

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The United Nations Spokesman in Belgrade has confirmed that four French soldiers with the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) were injured this morning during a mortar attack on the United Nations headquarters building in

Sarajevo. Three mortar rounds landed in the vicinity of the building and two actually hit it.

One of the wounded soldiers was seriously injured and was evacuated for treatment. The other three were less seriously hurt.

In related news, the Spokeswoman for the Secretary-General announced today that the suspension of the United Nations humanitarian airlift to Sarajevo, due to have ended at around that time, had been extended. The suspension was ordered on Tuesday for 72 hours in response to heavy shelling around Sarajevo airport.

She said that Major-General Philippe Morillon, the Deputy Force Commander of UNPROFOR, who had been meeting with the various parties in Sarajevo on resumption of the cease-fire, had left for Zagreb. There he will brief Force Commander General Satish Nambiar on the outcome of his talks. The decision on reopening Sarajevo airport would be made after that briefing.

In a separate development, the Spokeswoman also announced that Vladimir Petrovsky, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, would be leaving New York this weekend for London, to hold consultations on preparations for the International Conference on Yugoslavia, scheduled to be held in London from 26 to 28 August. The Conference is to be co-chaired by the United Nations and the European Community.

Mr. Petrovsky would then pay a brief visit to Paris for consultations, followed by a trip to Brussels to attend the 14 August plenary of the Conference on Yugoslavia presided over by Lord Carrington.

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Moldova has asked Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali in a letter to consider the possibility of sending a United Nations observer mission to Moldova to supervise the implementation of the provisions of the Agreement on the principles for a peaceful settlement of the armed conflict in the Dniester region of that country. The Agreement, which aims at an urgent cease-fire and a political solution in full accordance with the United Nations Charter and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, was signed on 21 July by the President of Moldova, Mircea Snegur, and the President of the Russian Federation, Boris Yeltsin.

According to the letter, dated 31 July, the United Nations observer mission would also supervise the process of establishing peace in the eastern region of Moldova.

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The World Bank today approved a $600 million loan to the Russian Federation to provide foreign exchange to purchase critically needed imports to address the recent decline in production.

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The rehabilitation loan will support the first phase of a broad-based programme of reforms to establish a framework for the transition to a market economy. They include privatization and restructuring of state-owned enterprises, promotion of foreign direct investment, pro-competition and anti-monopoly policies, reform of financial institutions and the commercial banking sector, and establishment of a social safety net to protect those who may be affected by the reforms. Subsequent World Bank operations will support efforts by the Government to deepen the programme for privatization and social protection, as well as extend reforms to include agriculture and the energy sector.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1201
10 August 1992

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council holds consultations to consider requests by United States, United Kingdom, France and Belgium for urgent meeting on humanitarian situation in Iraq.

+ Iraq invites Secretary-General to send representative to Baghdad to "finalize negotiations on Memorandum of Understanding" covering United Nations humanitarian programme in Iraq, including United Nations guards.

+ Commission on Human Rights to hold exceptional session in Geneva from 13 to 14 August to discuss human rights situation in former Yugoslavia.

+ Security Council authorizes enlargement of UNPROFOR's mandate and strength to allow it to perform immigration and customs functions in United Nations Protected Areas in Croatia; "condemns resolutely" abuses of civilian population on ethnic grounds.

+ Secretary-General calls on all parties involved in Afghan conflict to "lay down their arms and begin a dialogue at once", as fighting intensifies in Kabul; two United Nations staff members of Afghan nationality killed yesterday.

+ Secretary-General decides to send another fact-finding mission to Moldova in light of recent developments.

+ Anti-Apartheid Committee marks Day of Solidarity with Women's struggle in South Africa.

+ Preparatory Commission for Law of the Sea resumes work in New York today.

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The Security Council held consultations this afternoon to consider requests by four States -- the United States, the United Kingdom, France and Belgium -- for an urgent meeting of the Council to consider "the situation

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For information media--not an official record

which has arisen" in certain parts of Iraq and which constituted "a threat to peace and international security".

In their letters containing the requests, the four countries expressed deep concern at reports of "continuing repression" of the Iraqi civilian population in many parts of Iraq. They suggested that Mr. Van der Stoel, Special Rapporteur on the United Nations Commission on Human Rights be extended an invitation to attend the Council meeting.

In a letter addressed to the Secretary-General dated 30 July, the Special Rapporteur had expressed particular concern over the need to protect the rights to life and physical integrity of the civilian population in the southern parts of Iraq.

Reacting to that document, the Iraqi authorities, in a letter to the Secretary-General dated 6 August, denounced the Special Rapporteur's report as "full of allegations, lies and fallacies". The Iraqi Representative to the United Nations Abd al-Amir Al-Anbari contended that the measures taken by his Government on behalf of "Marsh Arabs" have had the objective of "protecting the inhabitants of the area and of neighbouring areas from acts of murder, sabotage, and robbery" carried out by "certain groups linked with Iran and some of which are made up of Iranian nationals".

Iraq also rejected the proposal by the Special Rapporteur to dispatch a team of human rights monitors to be deployed in all parts of Iraq. Such a deployment would constitute "an interference in Iraq's internal affairs", the Iraqi Ambassador said.

Security Council consultations on the issue will continue tomorrow afternoon.

Document S/24393,S/24394,S/24395,S/24396,S/24388.

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Iraq has invited Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to send a representative to Baghdad to "finalize negotiations on the Memorandum of Understanding" (MOU), covering United Nations humanitarian programme in Iraq, including the United Nations guards.

A United Nations spokeswoman told correspondents today that the Secretary-General had consequently asked Jan Eliasson, Under-Secretary-General for Emergency Relief Coordination, to leave for the Iraqi capital "with a view to finalizing the extension of the MOU". Mr. Eliasson is expected to begin negotiations in Baghdad on 17 August. Meanwhile, the coordinator for inter-agency humanitarian programme in Iraq is working with the local authorities to prepare for the final negotiations.

The current Memorandum of Understanding expired on 30 June. Since May, United Nations officials have been pressing the Iraqi authorities for its extension.

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The Commission on Human Rights will hold an exceptional session in Geneva from 13 to 14 August to discuss the human rights situation in former Yugoslavia. The request for convening the session was made by the Ambassador of the United States to the United Nations Office at Geneva, Morris B. Abram, and has obtained the backing of 30 of the 53 member States so far.

The United States Ambassador wrote in a letter to Antoine Blanca, Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights and Director-General of the United Nations Office in Geneva, that "reports of detention camps raise great concern over potentially massive human rights violations". Furthermore, he said, international authorities have been hindered in their efforts to gain access to "sites of alleged brutality".

In order to strengthen the role and efficiency of the Commission, the Economic and Social Council decided in May 1990 to enlarge the Commission from 43 to 53 States and authorized it to meet exceptionally between its regular sessions, provided that a majority of its members so agree. The session of former Yugoslavia is the first exceptional meeting in the Commission's history.

In a related development, the President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Dobrica Cosic, has written to the Secretary-General proposing that an international commission composed of prominent international figures be set up to examine allegations of the existence of "concentration camps" in the former Yugoslavia.

The letter, transmitted by the Chargé d'affaires of Yugoslavia and dated 7 August, refers to "unfounded allegations" and suggests that the commission include former concentration camp victims, for example, Elie Wiesel. He said his country would extend every possible support and assistance to the commission in "the task of examining the plausibility of the claims that such 'concentration camps' are in existence in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia".
Document S/24391

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The Security Council on Friday, 7 August, authorized the enlargement of the mandate and strength of the United Nations Protection Force in Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR) to allow it to perform immigration and customs functions at the borders of the United Nations Protected Areas (UNPA) in Croatia. Further, it condemned resolutely the abuses committed against the civilian population, particularly on ethnic grounds. It also reiterated its demand that all parties and others concerned cooperate with UNPROFOR in implementing the mandate entrusted to it.

In taking this action, the Council approved the recommendations contained in a report of the Secretary-General on the progress made by UNPROFOR in implementing its mandate in Croatia, the difficulties encountered by the Force and the concerns of the Croatian Government regarding control of its

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international borders. In that report, the Secretary-General recommended an increase in its civil affairs component by 351 international staff and 487 locally recruited staff and an increased number of civilian police monitors. The Secretary-General had estimated that the cost of the proposed expansion would be approximately $30.9 million from mid-August to mid-October 1992, and after that, approximately $5.9 million monthly.

In a separate development, humanitarian flights into Sarajevo airport - suspended last Tuesday because of heavy shelling - were resumed on Saturday morning. According to UNPROFOR Spokesman a record number of humanitarian flights had landed at Sarajevo airport since the airport's reopening.

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Noting with concern that fighting in Afghan capital, Kabul, had intensified in recent days, the Secretary-General today called on all the parties involved in the conflict to "lay down their arms and a begin a dialogue at once". In a statement issued by his Spokeswoman, Mr. Boutros-Ghali also expressed his "deep sorrow" that two United Nations staff members of Afghan nationality working with HABITAT had been killed yesterday during a rocket attack on Kabul.

The Secretary-General, deploring the toll extracted in lives and property, said it was highly regrettable that after 14 years of war, the people of Afghanistan were still experiencing death, destruction and suffering. He said it was crucial that they begin a dialogue, "so as to find a solution that would bring peace and security to their war-torn country". He warned too that if the United Nations were to continue its humanitarian and other operations in the country, he would expect that the safety and the protection of the United Nations personnel, property and premises would be assured.

He called on the governments of the neighbouring countries and concerned regional organizations to use their influence to help end the tragedy.

Answering questions from the press at Headquarters, the Spokeswoman for the Secretary-General said that United Nations personnel in Kabul were taking steps to ensure their safety today, staying in their homes or in their quarters.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has decided to send Gilberto Schlittler, a senior United Nations official, back to Moldova on a second fact-finding mission to that country. The Secretary-General's decision is in response to a recent request by Moldovan President Mircea Snegur for a new United Nations mission to his country to supervise the implementation of the cease-fire.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1202
11 August 1992

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council holds formal meeting concerning human rights situation in certain parts of Iraq; hears report by Special Rapporteur of Commission on Human Rights, remains seized of the matter.

+ Secretary-General welcomes signing of peace accord between Government of Mozambique and Mozambique National Resistance (RENAMO) in Rome on 7 August; says he hopes agreement will help end devastating conflict in that country.

+ Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina asks for urgent meeting of Security Council, with formal debate, to consider situation in that country; Council expected to hold consultations on that topic this evening.

Convened this afternoon in a formal meeting to consider the human rights situation in certain parts of Iraq, the Security Council heard the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights, Max van der Stoel, who warned that the food blockade by the Iraqi Government against its Kurdish population in the north and its Shi'ite population in the southern marshes could rapidly develop into a situation where famine could only be avoided by a major international relief operation. However, he said, the international agencies have been gradually withdrawing because of continuing harassment, travel restrictions and refusals to grant visas by the Iraqi authorities, leaving these populations with practically no protection or support. Mr. van der Stoel stressed it was imperative for the international relief organizations to be allowed to perform their humanitarian tasks.

The Special Rapporteur further warned that the recent artillery bombardment and attacks by Iraqi air craft of the southern marshes pointed to the start of a major military effort by the Government to restore its control over that region, regardless of casualties. "Iraq", said Mr. van der Stoel, "is a totalitarian regime, it uses totalitarian methods to crush any opposition or even any dissenting opinion".

Mr. van der Stoel urged that action be taken to bring a halt to the "serious violations of human rights" and of Security Council resolution 688

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(1991). He proposed that a "mechanism" be put in place to monitor the continuing situation and to measure compliance with the resolution.

In his statement, the Iraqi Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Abdul al-Amir Al-Anbari, rejected the statement by the Special Rapporteur, saying that given the gravity of allegations of violation of human rights by the Iraqi authorities, the Rapporteur should have sought clarification from the Government of that country. He denied that the Iraqi authorities mistreated their northern or southern populations, as reported by Mr. van der Stoel.

The other members of the Security Council - including the permanent members - expressed their concern over the situation of the Iraqi civilian population in certain parts of the country. The Council decided to remain seized of the matter.

The meeting had been requested by Belgium, France, the United Kingdom and the United States which, in letters to the Council President, had expressed concern at reports of "continuing repression" of the Iraqi civilian population in many parts of Iraq which they said constituted "a threat to peace and international security".

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has welcomed the signing of a peace accord between the Government of Mozambique and the Mozambique National Resistance (RENAMO) in Rome on 7 August. On the same day, he briefed the members of the Security Council on what he called "this important and welcome" development.

In a statement issued today by his Spokeswoman, the Secretary-General expressed hope that the agreement would help bring to an early end the long conflict that had devastated the country. He expressed his confidence that this breakthrough would facilitate the resolution of outstanding issues, including arrangements for a cease-fire, demobilization of forces and the delivery of humanitarian assistance. Reiterating his support for the peace process in Mozambique, the Secretary-General said he stood ready to contribute to the achievement of a lasting, comprehensive peace in that country.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali was represented at the signing in Rome by an observer.

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The Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations, Muhamed Sacirbey, has asked for an urgent meeting of the Security Council, with formal debate, to consider the situation in his country and take appropriate collective measures as provided for in Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter to restore peace and stability in the region. The request was contained in a letter to the Council President, dated 10 August.

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At a press conference yesterday at Headquarters, Mr. Sacirbey told correspondents that the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina wanted to be able to defend themselves. An arms embargo was imposed on Bosnia and Herzegovina, while the "other side" enjoyed an unlimited supply of weapons. In Sarajevo, some 50,000 people were ready to defend their Republic, but the Government only had enough weapons to arm 5,000, the Bosnian Ambassador said. Document S/24401.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1203
12 August 1992

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Leaders of two communities in Cyprus hold first joint meeting since beginning of negotiations on Overall Agreement in June.

+ Security Council, in Presidential statement, expresses "utmost concern" over outbreak of fighting in Kabul; calls for end to hostilites and urges Government of Afghanistan to ensure safety and security of all diplomatic and international staff.

+ Special Representative on Somalia confirms agreement to deploy 500 United Nations security personnel in Mogadishu; rapid deployment expected.

+ First stage of joint United Nations/European Community conference on former Yugoslavia to be held in London from 26 to 28 August; Vladimir Petrovsky travels to Paris and Brussels to continue consultations on modalities for conference.

+ Secretary-General to consult panel of independent high-level advisors on future course of United Nations development activities at meeting tomorrow at Headquarters.

+ Security Council, following its first review of sanctions against Libya, concludes that there is no agreement that necessary conditions exist for modification of sanctions.

+ World Food Programme begins deliveries to Kismayo; increases supplies to Mogadishu.

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The two leaders of the Greek and Turkish communities in Cyprus -- President George Vassiliou and Rauf Denktash -- attended this afternoon a joint meeting in New York at the invitation of the Secretary-General. Today's talks were expected to have examined the possibility of an agreement on the basis of the Set of Ideas, including the Secretary-General's suggestions on territorial adjustments and displaced persons.

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For information media—not an official record

It is the first time since the beginning of this round of negotiations, on 18 June, that the two sides accept the principle of a joint meeting. Previously, the negotiations were held under the format of proximity talks. The talks are being held in the framework of Security Council resolution 750 of 10 April which asked the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts to complete a set of ideas and to make specific recommendations for overcoming any outstanding difficulties in the Cyprus problem.

On 13 July, the Council President had issued a statement on behalf of Council members, endorsing the Secretary-General's intentions to invite the two leaders to a joint meeting and to convene an international high-level meeting to conclude the Overall Agreement, as soon as the proximity talks revealed that the two sides were within agreement range.

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The Security Council this afternoon expressed its "utmost concern" over the wide-scale fighting which has broken out in Kabul, Afghanistan, and which has already resulted in heavy loss of lives and property, including to foreign missions and their personnel.

In a Presidential statement read out by Council President Li Daoyu of China, the members of the Council also urged the Afghan authorities to "take every measure to ensure the safety and security of all diplomatic and international missions", and called upon all those involved in the hostilities to cease such hostilities and establish the necessary conditions for the safe evacuation of foreign personnel.

Following the Council consultations, Ambassador Yuliy Vorontsov of the Russian Federation informed correspondents that one member of his Embassy in Kabul had been killed and two other wounded when the premises were hit during the heavy fighting today. He indicated that his Government was seeking the assistance of the Council, as well as of neighbouring countries, such as Pakistan, to evacuate more than 100 of its diplomatic personnel, including their families.

* * *

Ambassador Mohamed Sahnoun, Special Representative of Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali on Somalia, confirmed this afternoon that an agreement to deploy 500 United Nations security personnel in Mogadishu had been finalized earlier today in the capital city of Somalia.

According to a statement issued by the Secretary-General's Spokeswoman, the agreement had been signed by General Mohamed Farah Aidid, Chairman of the United Somali Congress (USC), Colonel Ahmed Omar Jees, Chairman of the Somali Patriotic Movement (SPM), Colonel Mohamed Noor Aliyou, Chairman of SDM, and Mr. Abdi Warsame Isaak, Chairman of SSNM.

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With the previous agreement of Interim President Ali Mahdi Mohamed and General Mohamed Abshir Musse, the way was now clear for the rapid deployment of the security personnel, the statement said.

* * *

Vladimir Petrovsky, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, who was in London on 10 August to discuss the organization of an international conference on Yugoslavia, has informed Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali that the first stage of the joint United Nations/European Community meeting will be held in London from 26 to 28 August.

According to a statement issued today at Headquarters, it was agreed, after consultations with senior government and European Community officials, that the conference be named "The International Conference on the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia". The meeting is a multilateral effort to settle the current crisis in Yugoslavia and will be co-chaired by the European Community and the United Nations.

Mr. Petrovsky is in Paris today and will travel to Brussels for further consultations on the modalities for the Conference.

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The future course of United Nations development activities will be the focus of a meeting the Secretary-General will hold tomorrow at Headquarters with a panel of independent, high-level experts. Jan Pronk, Dutch Minister of Development Cooperation, and Enrique Iglesias, President of the Inter-American Development Bank, will co-chair the panel.

Among the main topics of discussion will be the effectiveness of the United Nations role in development and in international economic cooperation, and further phases in the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the Organization. The panel will also be discussing institutional arrangements for the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in June.

The Secretary-General, addressing the High-level Segment of the Economic and Social Council in July, had outlined measures he planned to take to enhance the effectiveness of the economic and social structures of the Organization: among them, his intention to seek "high-level advice" from eminent development experts. Tomorrow's meeting is expected to be the first in a series of such consultations the Secretary-General intends to hold with the panel in coming weeks.

* * *

Following its first review of sanctions imposed against Libya on 15 April, the members of the Security Council decided this afternoon that Libya had not met its requirements for lifting the sanctions.

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The President of the Council, Li Daoyu of China, indicated in a statement issued after the meeting that "there was no agreement that the necessary conditions existed for modification of the measures of sanctions in paragraph 3 to 7 of resolution 748 (1992)."

The Council adopted the sanctions resolution when Libya failed to comply with a 15 April deadline requesting its cooperation in establishing responsibility for the downing of Pan Am flight 103 and UTA flight 772. It decided then to review the sanctions "every 120 days or sooner, should the situation require".

* * *

The scheduled arrival for today of the "Sea Pearl", a World Food Programme (WFP) vessel carrying 3,000 metric tons of sorghum to Kismayo Port, will mark the beginning of a major United Nations food aid delivery programme to Somalia's south-east region.

Food stocks to war-torn Mogadishu have already been boosted with the arrival on 10 August of another WFP ship carrying 10,000 tonnes of commodities. WFP Executive Director, Catherine Bertini, insisted that the WFP deliver food to the people at immediate risk of starvation as soon as food is discharged from the vessel.

Since fierce factional fighting in south-east Somalia, as in the rest of the country, has caused mass displacement of people, the population of Kismayo itself has increased from an estimated 50,000 in 1990 to around 200,000. These mass movements of people, together with the conflict and disruption of agriculture and pastoral activities, have been catastrophic. In some clinics at Kismayo, 30 per cent of the children are malnourished, with more than a third suffering from severe malnutrition.

A total of 35,000 tonnes is expected to be delivered to Somalia from WFP in the next four weeks. Ms. Bertini also indicated that if the security situation were to improve, the Programme would be able to operate efficiently in shipping more food to the country.

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United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1204
13 August 1992

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- In two separate resolutions, Security Council calls upon States to take all measures necessary to facilitate delivery of humanitarian assistance to Sarajevo and "wherever needed in other parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina"; strongly condems any violations of international humanitarian law and demands that International Committee of Red Cross be granted "immediate, unimpeded and continued access to camps, prisons and detention centres" within the territory of the former Yugoslavia; says it will take further measures under United Nations Charter if parties fail to comply with provisions of the resolution.

- United States calls on the Human Rights Commission, meeting in Extraordinary Session in Geneva, to appoint Special Rapporteur to conduct an urgent, first-hand investigation into allegations of human rights violations in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees dispatches humanitarian convoy to northern Bosnian town of Banja Luka to assist 28,000 people threatened with "ethnic cleansing".

* * *

Under the first resolution 770 (1992), adopted by 12 votes in favour and three abstentions (China, India and Zimbabwe), the Council called upon States to take all measures necessary to facilitate, in coordination with the United Nations, the delivery of humanitarian assistance to Sarajevo and "wherever needed in other parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina".

The Council further called upon States to report to the Secretary-General on measures they are taking to carry out this resolution, and asked the Secretary-General to report to the Council on the implementation of the resolution.

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For information media--not an official record

Under the second resolution 771 (1992), adopted unanimously, the Council demanded that the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and other relevant humanitarian organizations be granted "immediate, unimpeded and continued access to all camps, prisons and detention centres within the territory of the former Yugoslavia". It strongly condemned any violations of international humanitarian law, including those involved in the practice of "ethnic cleansing" and called upon States and international humanitarian organizations "to collate substantiated information in their possession or submitted to them" relating to the violations of humanitarian law, including grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions, being committed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia" and to make this information available to the Council.

The Council also decided that all parties and others concerned in the former Yugoslavia, and all military forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina, "shall comply with the provisions of the present resolution, failing which the Council will need to take further measures" under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter.

During the meeting, a number of delegations expressed the concern of their Governments over the deterioration of the situation in the former Yugoslavia and emphasized the need for speedy delivery of humanitarian assistance.

At a press conference before the Council meeting, the Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations, Mohamed Sacirbey, read out a statement praising the members of the Council for their "courage and sense of fair play" and "effort to be balanced".

Universally, he went on, the international community "had identified the aggressor and had condemned in the strongest terms the crimes against humanity". Mr. Sacirbey also expressed the determination of his countrymen to "to face the aggressor and even to escort relief".

* * *

The United States today called on the Human Rights Commission, meeting in an Extraordinary Session in Geneva, to appoint a Special Rapporteur to conduct an urgent, first-hand investigation into the allegations of human rights violations in the former Yugoslavia, particularly in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Addressing the session today, John R. Bolton, the United States Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs, listed as his Government's objectives in calling for the Session, in addition to the investigation: a full airing of all charges relating to human rights abuses and violations of international law, identification of those responsible and the assurance that humanitarian organizations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) have complete access to all victims of the conflict.

The United States was introducing a resolution to that effect, he said, as "evidence of the uniform repulsion felt throughout the world, and the joint

determination that we cannot remain idle". The speed with which the Commission had convened was further proof of deep concern and commitment.

The Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees, Douglas Stafford, addressing the Session, said the Council "must condemn the reprehensible practice of 'ethnic cleansing' and reaffirm the rights of all minorities to be protected from discrimination, harassment, intimidation, forcible relocation and expulsion, whether en masse or individually".

The Extraordinary Session, requested by the Government of the United States, is the first of its kind in the Commission history. It was convened in accordance with a 1990 provision authorizing such meetings between regular sessions, if a majority of members so agreed.

* * *

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) dispatched today a humanitarian convoy to the northern Bosnian town of Banja Luka in a move to increase international presence in an area where some 28,000 people are threatened by the policy of "ethnic cleansing". The Agency is boosting its moral presence and visibility around Banja Luka in hopes of stabilizing the situation.

According to a press release issued by the Agency, UNCHR became aware of the new crisis on Monday, when officials from four towns north and northwest of Banja Luka presented the United Nations with letters and petitions from about 28,000 people which listed families "volunteering" to be evacuated from the area to neighbouring Croatia.

UNHCR Workers investigating the situation said they discovered a pattern of brutality against people in the area. People fleeing the area say gangs of irregulars race through the streets at night shooting and report random killings. Before signing the petitions to be "voluntarily evacuated" residents were forced to sign over their land, homes and cars to the local administration.

In addition to increasing its presence on the ground, UNHCR has begun negotiations with relevant authorities and has made it clear that it will hold local officials responsible for the security of these 28,000 people being threatened. UNHCR's Special Envoy in Former Yugoslavia, José Maria Mandiluce, travelled to Belgrade today to discuss the latest crisis with the relevant local authorities. On Wednesday, Mr. Mandiluce conducted similar negotiations with officials in Sarajevo.

* *** *

Note: First paragraph of yesterday's highlights should have read:

President George Vassiliou of Cyprus and the leader of the Turkish Cypriot community, H.E. Rauf Denktash, attended this afternoon a joint meeting in New York at the invitation of the Secretary-General.

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1205
14 August 1992

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Vladimir Petrovsky to arrive in Tripoli on Monday, 17 August, to deliver personal letter from Secretary-General to Libyan leader Muammar Al-Qathafi; Sanctions Committee appeals to all States who have not yet done so to report of measures undertaken regarding sanctions against Libya.

+ Exceptional Session of Human Rights Commission condemns all violations of human rights, particularly concept and practice of "ethnic cleansing" in former Yugoslavia and especially in Bosnia and Herzegovina; requests appointment of Special Rapporteur to investigate human rights situation.

+ Under-Secretary-General Jan Eliasson due in Baghdad on Monday, 17 August, to conclude negotiations with Iraqi authorities on renewing Memorandum of Understanding, which expired on 30 June.

+ 11 casualties from United Nations Protection Force reported in various parts of former Yugoslavia yesterday; the same day, a record 28 humanitarian flights land at Sarajevo airport.

+ Secretary-General to send Francesc Vendrell, Director in Department of Political Affairs, as emissary to accompany Organization of American States mission leaving for Haiti on Tuesday, 18 August.

+ Special Representative in Cambodia signs United Nations Electoral Law for Cambodia, 1992, with five changes from draft presented to Supreme National Council in April.

+ Iran, in letter to Security Council President, says Council "and others" have failed to address root cause of problem in Bosnia Herzegovina.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has asked Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Vladimir Petrovsky to leave this weekend for Libya to

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For information media—not an official record

deliver a personal letter from him to the Libyan leader Muammar Al-Qathafi, a United Nations spokeswoman said today. Mr. Petrovsky will arrive in Tripoli Monday, 17 August.

The mission is being undertaken in the framework of resolution 731 (1992) which asked the Secretary-General to seek the cooperation of the Libyan Government in establishing responsibility for the terrorist acts against Pan Am flight 103 and UTA flight 772. The Council imposed sanctions against Libya on 15 April when the country failed to comply with that request.

In a related development, the acting Chairman of the sanctions Committee established under resolution 748 (1992), which imposed the sanctions against Libya, has expressed concern that a large number of States have not yet informed the Committee of the measures they have taken concerning the sanctions.

In a statement issued today, the Committee noted that of the States that had replied, very few have given any indication of the measures they had undertaken to reduce significantly the number and level of the staff at Libyan diplomatic missions and consular posts in their territories, as required under resolution 748.

The Committee appealed to all States that have not yet done so to "give immediate effect to this mandatory requirement" and urged all those States that have not responded at all "to do so as soon as possible".

The Council decided under resolution 748 that all member States must notify the Committee of the measures taken by them regarding the sanctions, which include an air and arms embargo, as well as limitations on staff at Libyan diplomatic missions and consular posts abroad.

On Wednesday, the Council President said in a statement following the Council's first 120-day review of the sanctions that there was no agreement among Council members that necessary conditions existed for the modification of the sanctions.

* * *

The Exceptional Session of the Human Rights Commission, which ended its two-day meeting in Geneva today, has adopted a resolution condemning all violations of human rights, particularly the concept and practice of "ethnic cleansing" in the former Yugoslavia and especially in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

According to a press report from Geneva, the resolution, adopted by consensus, called upon all parties in the conflict to release immediately all persons arbitrarily arrested or detained. It requested the Chairman of the Commission to appoint a special rapporteur to investigate first hand the human rights situation in former Yugoslavia. The rapporteur, who has yet to be nominated, is expected to report no later than 28 August.

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Jan Eliasson, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, is due to arrive in Baghdad on Monday, 17 August, to conclude negotiations with the Government of Iraq on the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding, which covers United Nations humanitarian programmes in Iraq.

Accompanying Mr. Eliasson will be eight officials from the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, the Iraqi Relief Coordination Unit, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Health Organization and the World Food Programme.

The negotiations - to get underway on Monday - aim to break a deadlock that has existed between the United Nations and the Iraqi authorities since the current Memorandum of Understanding expired on 30 June.

* * *

Eleven casualties from the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) were reported in various parts of former Yugoslavia yesterday, a spokeswoman for the Secretary-General informed correspondents today.

In Sector East - in East Slavonia - one Belgian soldier was killed and another very seriously wounded when their vehicle hit a mine. In Sector North - in northern Krajina - eight Nigerian soldiers were injured and taken to hospital after the truck in which they were traveling collided with a car. In Sector Sarajevo, one Egyptian soldier was hit in the abdomen when a camp housing Egyptian soldiers came under fire.

Regarding humanitarian flights, a Spokeswoman told the press that a record 28 flights had landed at Sarajevo airport yesterday.

* * *

A United Nations spokeswoman confirmed today that the Secretary-General would be sending Francesc Vendrell, Director of Americas Division, Department of Political Affairs, as emissary to accompany members of the Organization of American States (OAS) mission leaving for Haiti on Tuesday, 18 August. Mr. Vendrell would himself be accompanied by a senior political affairs officer in the same Department.

* * *

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Cambodia, Yasushi Akashi, exercising his power under the Paris Agreements, yesterday signed the United Nations Electoral Law for Cambodia, 1992. As required by the Agreements, the content of the Law was determined in consulation with the country's Supreme National Council (SNC).

According to a press release from the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), which Mr. Akashi heads, the Law differs from a draft presented to the Council on 1 April in five aspects. The first relates to the definition of a Cambodian person, in terms of qualifying to register to

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vote. The other changes relate to the prohibition of the use of portraits of Prince Norodom Sihanouk or Angkor Wat as symbols of the political parties; where voting facilities for overseas voters will be provided; when the election campaign begins and ends, and the widening of the definition of what constitutes an offence before, during and after the election period.

* * *

The root cause of the problem in Bosnia Herzegovina is the "expansionist and hegemonic policy of Serbia and Montenegro exercised through their well equipped and trained army", contends the Deputy Permanent Representative of Iran to the United Nations, Javad Zarif.

In a letter dated 13 August and addressed to the President of the Security Council, the Iranian Representative also notes that, despite all the efforts by the Security Council and the European Community to mediate a political solution in Bosnia Herzegovina, "the carnage continues". According to the document, the aggressors have achieved most of their goals: the non-Serbs have been uprooted from their homes and towns, "ethnically cleansed so to speak", and more than 2.5 million civilians have been rendered homeless. "This is nothing but a crime against humanity", the letter says.

The Iranian letter also points out the failure of the Security Council "and others" to have addressed the root cause of the problem in the region. Instead, it says, the humanitarian needs in Bosnia Herzegovina "which are the natural symptoms of the aggression" have received greater attention, "albeit, unsuccessfully".

Confronted with the Serbian aggression which "has reached an enormous and catastrophic proportion", the Iranian Ambassador calls for a "genuine, concrete, and decisive decision" by the Security Council in accordance with Article 42 of the United Nations Charter.

In separate letters yesterday to the President of the Security Council, the Permanent Representatives of Egypt and Pakistan expressed similar concerns about the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Egyptian letter said it was necessary for the Security Council "to affirm the respect of all States for the territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the full sovereignty of its Government over its territory within its frontiers" to permit that State to exercise the right of self-defence within the framework of the United Nations Charter.

The letter from Pakistan expressed the view that Bosnia and Herzegovina should be exempted from the arms embargo imposed under Security Council resolution 713 (1992). It also informed the Council President that the Pakistani Government had decided not to accept the claim of the new Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) as "the successor state of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia".
Document: S/24432, S/24438, S/24437

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1206
17 August 1992

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council authorizes Secretary-General to deploy observers to South Africa "to address areas of concern".

+ Secretary-General reiterates deep concern at further escalation of fighting in Kabul, "particularly grieved" by heavy loss of life among unarmed civilians.

+ Secretary-General to present report to Security Council on Cyprus talks "by end of this week"; joint talks between Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders to resume on 26 October.

+ United Nations humanitarian convoy, carrying urgently needed food supplies, reaches city of Gorazde, where 70,000 people are living under siege.

+ Yugoslavia, in letter to Security Council, stresses its Government'sabhorrence of ethnic cleansing and support for internationalinvestigation of such actions; offers support for relief efforts.

+ Albania demands that elected representatives of Kosovo participate in the London Conference on former Yugoslavia, scheduled for 26 to 28 August; says its participation is "indispensable" for restoration of peace and stability to region.

+ World Food Programme says tens of thousands of people are at risk in southern Sudan as relief efforts are hindered.

+ Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations to consider report of Secretary-General entitled "An Agenda for Peace" in open-ended working group, beginning tomorrow, 18 August.

* * *

The Security Council this afternoon authorized Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to deploy, as a matter of urgency, United Nations observers in

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South Africa "to address areas of concern noted in his report". It also invited him to assist in the strengthening of the structures set up under the National Peace Accord in consultation with the relevant parties.

The Council took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 772 (1992), after considering the Secretary-General's report on the mission to South Africa undertaken by his Special Representative Cyrus Vance in mid-July.

In adopting the resolution the Council also called on the Government of South Africa, parties and organizations, and the Peace Accord structures, to extend their full cooperation to the United Nations observers to enable them to carry out their tasks effectively. It invited international organizations such as the Organization of African Unity, the Commonwealth and the European Community to consider the deploying their own observers in South Africa in coordination with the United Nations and the structures set up under the National Peace Accord.

The Council also requested the Secretary-General to report to the Security Council quarterly, or more frequently if necessary, on the implementation of the present resolution and also decided to remain seized of the matter until a democratic non-racial and united South Africa is established.

In his report, dated 7 August, the Secretary-General recommended that the United Nations make available some 30 observers in South Africa, in close association with the South African National Peace Secretariat, in order to enhance "the capacity of indigenous structures that can play a major role in the building of peace".

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, in a statement issued on Friday 14 August, has expressed deep concern that the fighting in Kabul has escalated even further since his appeal of 10 August. The Secretary-General was particularly grieved by the heavy loss of life among the unarmed civilian population.

In the statement, the Secretary-General reiterated his appeal to all parties involved in the conflict to exercise maximum restraint and to lay down their arms immediately so that a dialogue could begin that would lead to a peaceful solution to the conflict. He also called on the parties to take every measure to protect the security of the diplomatic missions and international organizations and the safety of their personnel. He urged all those involved in the hostilities to heed the appeal of the Security Council for the establishment of necessary conditions to ensure the safe evacuation of foreign personnel.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali is expected to report to the Security Council "by the end of this week" on the talks on Cyprus held during

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the past weeks and on the positions held by the two sides in Cyprus, according to his Spokeswoman.

Following proximity talks between the two leaders of the Greek and Turkish communities, President George Vassiliou of Cyprus and H.E. Rauf Denktash, the Secretary-General held joint talks between the two leaders at the United Nations Headquarters on 12, 13 and 14 August. The Spokeswoman said the goal of these talks was to negotiate an agreement on the basis of the Set of Ideas, including the Secretary-General's suggestion on territorial adjustments and displaced persons.

The joint talks will now reconvene on Monday, 26 October.

* * *

Milan Panic, the Prime Minister of Yugoslavia, has written to the President of the Security Council, Li Daoyu of China, stressing his Government's abhorrence of the "barbaric practice of ethnic cleansing", and its support for an international investigation of such actions. He contends that it will bring to justice any Yugoslav citizen found guilty of having engaged in ethnic cleansing and is conducting its own investigation into human rights violations within its borders.

The letter seeks to correct what Mr. Panic sees as incomplete information on policy statements and actions of his Government, which, he says, has had "a direct bearing on the attitude of the international community towards Yugoslavia".

Yugoslavia, he says, will cooperate in any way it can to ensure the peaceful delivery of humanitarian and relief supplies to the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Emphasizing the Government's opposition to the use of force to change borders between countries, Mr. Panic reiterated its support for Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Macedonia.

* * *

Albania has demanded that elected representatives of the people of Kosovo participate in the London Conference on former Yugoslavia, scheduled for 26 to 28 August, saying its participation is "indispensable" for a success of the Conference and for the restoration of peace and stability to the region. The Conference, which is the first stage of a multilateral effort to settle the current crisis in former Yugoslavia, will be co-chaired by the United Nations and the European Community.

In a letter dated 11 August to the Secretary-General, the Chargé d'affaires of the Permanent Mission of Albania, Sokol Necaj, said the situation of the 2 million Albanians in Kosovo was "intimately connected" with the overall settlement of the crisis in Former Yugoslavia. "To exclude Kosovo from the Conference and to exclude the situation within Kosovo from the agenda of the Conference would mean that the seeds of further conflict ... would be sown more widely". The exclusion would also, he said, "negate the aspiration

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of the Conference to establish an overall framework for the resolution of the interconnected disputes and conflicts within and around the former Yugoslavia".

* * *

An eight-truck convoy, carrying 46 tons of urgently needed medical and food supplies, reached the city of Gorazde on Saturday, 15 August, where nearly 70,000 people have been living under siege for four months.

The convoy, mounted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), is the first to reach the embattled city in four months. It is part of UNHCR's efforts to expand its road convoy operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina to prevent the further displacement of people from the war-torn region.

According to a press release issued by the Agency today, the convoy had to stop for 90 minutes about 20 kilometres from Gorazde, near the town of Rogatica, because of automatic arms fire in the area. The convoy was delayed on the trip when it was forced to make a long detour to avoid landmines on a bridge. However, there were no reports of any injuries.

The UNHCR had, on numerous occasions, tried to get assurances of safe passage from the warring parties so it could bring in emergency relief supplies to the city. An earlier convoy that attempted to reach the city on 23 July was forced to turn back after hitting landmines.

* * *

"Continuing failure to reach people in need of food aid could lead to a major disaster in southern Sudan of the same dimension of the 1988 catastrophe when tens of thousands of people died", warned World Food Programme (WFP) Executive Director, Catherine Bertini, on Friday in Nairobi. She expressed concern over the fate of hundreds of thousands of people who are at risk from starvation since relief aid workers cannot have access to them.

She reported that in accessible areas, at least 1 million people newly displaced since the beginning of the offensive earlier this year were in dire need of urgent relief assistance, whereas the plight of others living in inaccessible areas remained unknown. She described the conditions in which the internally displaced are living as "desperate" with widespread destitution, malnutrition, disease and death, affecting mainly women and children.

Ms Bertini also pointed out that in many cases, it has become virtually impossible to deliver relief aid, because of the absence of an agreement, if not outright refusal of both the Government of Sudan and the Sudanese People'Liberation Army (SPLA), to open road and air corridors. In addition, food airlifts - the only means of reaching the hardest-to-access areas - are repeatedly disrupted because of fuel shortages and lack of security clearance. Large numbers of people were fleeing into Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda in search of food, she said.

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The Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations will consider the report of Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali entitled "An Agenda for Peace" in an open-ended working group, beginning tomorrow, 18 August. At a brief meeting today the Committee approved its work programme for the week-long session, which will end with the adoption of its report to the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly opening next month.

The Secretary-General's report, which was issued mid-June, had been prepared at the request of the first Summit Meeting of the Security Council held on 31 January this year. It analyses recent developments affecting international peace and security and introduces a multifaceted, integrated programme of proposals aimed at enhancing the Organization's effectiveness in early warning of potential conflicts, their short- and long-term resolution and post-conflict measures to build peace among former adversaries.

At the meeting today, Ibrahim Gambari (Nigeria), Chairman of the Special Committee, expressed warm appreciation to the Secretary-General for his "most timely and courageous" report.

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